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UKRAINE UNREST



PHIL NORDUS/AP

BODIES FROM DOWNED MALAYSIAN AIRLINER RETURN HOME TO A NATION IN MOURNING

By DOROTHEE THIESING
The Associated Press

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands — Two military transport planes carrying 40 coffins bearing victims of the downed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 landed Wednesday in the southern city of Eindhoven, and pro-Russia rebels shot down two fighter jets in Ukraine's restive east as fighting flared in the region.

Six days after the Boeing 777 was

'If I have to wait five months for identification, I can do it. Waiting while the bodies were in the field and in the train was a nightmare.'

Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand son, Bryce, died in the crash

shot down over the battlefields of eastern Ukraine, the first bodies finally arrived in the Netherlands, the country that bore the heaviest toll in the crash that killed all 298 passengers and crew.

A Dutch Hercules C-130 that government spokesman Lodewijk Hekking said was carrying 16 coffins touched down first, closely followed by an Australian C-17 Globemaster carrying 24 coffins.

SEE MOURNING ON PAGE 12

German authorities withholding evidence in AFN homicide

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — German authorities will withhold key evidence in the strangulation death of an AFN broadcaster — including the victim's throat — unless the U.S. military gives assurances it will not seek the death penalty for the airman accused of the murder.

The U.S. military charged Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver in March with murder in the death of Petty Officer

2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov.

'[German authorities can only cooperate] when we know that it will not come to a death penalty.'

Udo Gehring
lead prosecutor
in Kaiserslautern

German police stopped Oliver on Dec. 14 in Kaiserslautern for driving erratically and found Chepusov's lifeless body in the passenger seat of Oliver's car.

After conducting an autopsy, German authorities concluded that Chepusov, a 31-year-old sailor assigned to the American Forces Network

at Ramstein Air Base, died of "force to the neck."

Although German authorities initially cooperated with U.S. military investigators, they withheld the throat and other evidence when they turned Chepusov's body over to U.S. authorities.

At issue is the death penalty, which Germany abolished in 1949.

Like other countries that have outlawed capital punishment, Germany will not cooperate with any other state in the prosecution of a capital case.

The NATO Status of Forces Agreement gives the U.S. military primary jurisdiction over Oliver since the alleged crime was against another military member, said Juan Melendez, a spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein.

SEE HOMICIDE ON PAGE 7

WORLD

US pushes for truce as Gaza battle rages

Page 14

FACES

No romance for 'Downton Abbey' in-laws, actors say

Page 17



MILITARY

Study: Services a refuge for those exposed to childhood abuse

Page 3



NFL: Broncos primed for another super run » Back page

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

"To me, we just came out of the crack epidemic and are still seeing its effects. Now we want to allow people to smoke marijuana 24/7?"

— Aaron McCormick, a father of three who considered challenging a ballot initiative that would legalize pot in the District of Columbia but ultimately realized it would be futile

See story on Page 9

TOP CLICKS

ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. 'Generation Kill' NCO charged with sexual abuse of minor
2. Senate moves to rein in career colleges popular among troops
3. Navy spouse fighting back to keep fitness program she founded
4. 'Slenderman' attack victim, 12, receives a Purple Heart
5. Air Force launching satellites to spy on other satellites

COMING

SOON

Video games

"Divinity: Original Sin"



TODAY

IN STRIPES

American Roundup	16
Business	18
Classified	19, 22
Comics	13
Crossword	13
Faces	17
Opinion	20-21
Sports	23-32
Weather	18

MILITARY

Panel chairman says US is failing Iraq

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration missed key opportunities over the past six months to beat back the Islamic State assault on Iraq with targeted drone strikes, lawmakers on the House Foreign Affairs Committee said Wednesday.

Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., committee chairman, said he and some in the State Department urged U.S. strikes on the extremist group as it gathered in Iraq's western desert earlier this year before seizing many major cities, but he said the administration apparently rejected the requests.

The Islamic State successes, first in Syria and now in Iraq, have left the group flush with cash, weapons, territory and fighters, and caused widespread concern of a new Islamist safe haven that could be used to stage terrorist attacks against the United States.

The U.S. has ramped up intelligence gathering, military advising and diplomatic efforts within Iraq over the past two months as the group took much of the

north and threatened the capital, Baghdad.

Royce said the Obama administration warned House lawmakers six months ago that the Islamic State, which marches under the black al-Qaida flag, was gathering in easily identifiable columns in the west while officials were warning that the group could threaten the rest of the country.

"Since that last hearing, [the Islamic State] has done ... precisely what the administration predicted it would; it has taken over most of western Iraq," he said. "But again, no drone strikes against those columns."

Instead, Royce said, the Iraqi security forces were left to their own against the invading forces, which had swelled with jihadists and been battle-hardened in the neighboring Syrian civil war.

He said Iraqi forces were ill-equipped to deal with the threat and had attempted to attack with U.S. Hellfire missiles mounted on Cessna propeller airplanes.

The situation has since spun out of control, Royce said, destabilizing the region and undermining the security of the United States.

Brett McGurk, deputy assistant secretary for Iraq and Iran in the State Department Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, testified that the Iraqi government did not request U.S. air support until May and that the administration has tried to support the country in providing its own security.

"We wanted to enable local actors to secure their sovereign space as best they can," McGurk said.

He said the U.S. had helped the Iraqi security forces "jerry-rig" missile systems to attack militants, and that those weapons had been effective at times.

Furthermore, the Obama administration has not rejected airstrikes, but intelligence on the situation on the ground in Iraq had been patchy and has made any targeted attacks difficult, McGurk said.

"There is a significant risk, Mr. Chairman, of taking any military action without that level of granularity," he said.

The U.S. has drastically increased intelligence gathering flights over Iraq — 50 sorties per day versus one per month in the past — and the security picture

is becoming clearer, said Elissa Slotkin, who was acting as the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for policy for the Department of Defense.

Hundreds of military advisers have also been sent to assist the Baghdad government, and U.S. warships have moved into the Persian Gulf, she said.

The current administration strategy favors strengthening Iraq's government over using U.S. military power to defeat the Islamist forces, said Slotkin, who also testified Wednesday.

Officials hope to foster a federalist-style government that can pull together the disparate religious and ethnic groups in Iraq and provide national security, especially at Iraq's borders, she said.

"The situation on the ground ... is extremely complex and fluid," Slotkin said. "I want to be clear — there will not be an exclusively military solution to [the Islamic State]. The Iraqis must do the heavy lifting."

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5th Signal Command opens cybercenter

By Eric A. Brown
Stars and Stripes

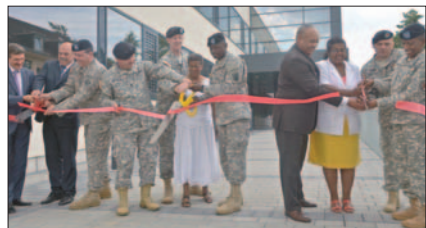
WIESBADEN, Germany — The U.S. military is enhancing its capability to protect its computer networks throughout Europe and parts of the Middle East.

U.S. Army Europe's 5th Signal Command hosted a ribbon-

cutting ceremony Wednesday to mark the grand opening of its Gray Center Cyber Operations Center.

The purpose of the facility, named in honor of the late Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray, a Signal Corps pioneer, is to consolidate tactical, theater and strategic communications functions to support the U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Army Europe. The center, a state-of-the-art green building, is expected to significantly expand its scope of activity in the coming years.

"Fifth Signal Command is the first such facility to manage all services' networks," said Col. Kelly Knitter, deputy commander for the "Dragon Warriors," the nickname of 5th Signal Command soldiers. The Gray Center's



Eric A. Brown/Stars and Stripes

Annie Gray, center, widow of Lt. Gen. Robert E. Gray, was on hand to officially open 5th Signal Command's Gray Center Cyber Operations Center on Wednesday in Wiesbaden, Germany.

long-term goal is to take over cyber-warfare responsibility from the Stuttgart-based European Command, Knitter said.

In his opening remarks at the ceremony, Col. Jimmy L. Hall Jr., commander of 5th Signal Command, highlighted the importance of Gray's early investments

in the corps. "Today is an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves to the principles for which Lt. Gen. Gray lived and served," Hall said.

Gray's widow, Annie, and their two children attended the ceremony.

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Correction

A story Wednesday on a farewell celebration in Wiesbaden, Germany, for Maj. Gen. Richard Longo misstated the rank of Donald M. Campbell Jr. He is a lieutenant general.

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MILITARY



CARLOS BONGIANNI/Stars and Stripes

Bob McDonald answers questions from members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee considering McDonald's nomination to become the next VA Secretary during a hearing on Tuesday.

Confirmation looks likely for VA nominee McDonald

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration nominee to head the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs faced no resistance from lawmakers Tuesday during an initial confirmation hearing before a Senate committee.

Senators lauded former Procter & Gamble CEO Bob McDonald, 61, and urged him to use his corporate experience to conduct a firm overhaul of the VA, sending a strong indication that his nomination will swiftly be approved on the Senate floor.

Lawmakers were expected to hold a vote Wednesday to send the McDonald nomination to the full chamber, which would have a week to either confirm or deny a new VA secretary before a monthlong congressional recess in August.

McDonald has been nominated to replace Gen. Eric Shinsekai, who resigned in May amid a nationwide scandal over the department manipulating records to hide long waits for vets at hospitals and clinics. Investigations and audits have since uncovered deep dysfunction and a bureaucratic culture throughout the VA health care and benefits system that has often failed and endangered veterans.

"You don't need this job," Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, told McDonald. "In the midst of all these problems ... why do you want this job?"

McDonald said he "desperately" wants to take the reins at the department.

"I think there is no higher calling and I think this is a chance to make a difference in the lives of the men I care so much about," he said. "If not me, who?"

McDonald spent 33 years at P&G where he headed up the company's Tide detergent brand and later global fabric care division before being promoted to president and CEO in 2009.

The company's stock went up under his leadership but he retired in 2013 amid some dissatisfaction over earnings.

McDonald graduated from West Point and rose to the rank of captain in the 82nd Airborne Division before entering the private sector.

"At the very top of my list is getting the leadership at the top of the organization together and telling them what I am going to do," McDonald said. "So that is what I am going to do on Day 1."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.V., said P&G was considered one of the best-run corporations in the world during McDonald's tenure, and that that leadership will be useful in fixing the massive VA system.

"When you run a great company and you have hundreds of thousands of people working for you, you can't afford to make mistakes," he said.

The senator said he is not worried about whether McDonald can turn around the department and is instead worried whether Congress is willing to give a new secretary and the VA the money needed for the overhaul through an ongoing effort to get reform legislation off Capitol Hill.

"I feel certain you will be confirmed," Rockefeller said.

A major reform effort is being spearheaded by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., and Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and John McCain, R-Ariz. So far, it is aimed at expanding access to general care, but a congressional conference committee has been unable to strike a deal due to concerns over an estimated annual price tag as high as \$50 billion.

Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, said he hopes Congress can pass comprehensive reform before leaving for the August recess but urged McDonald to move ahead without Congress once confirmed.

"As soon as we get you confirmed, get busy," Begich said. "Be bold — not reckless — but be bold."

Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson testified before Congress earlier this month that the department will need an additional \$17.6 billion in funding between now and 2017 to fix its problems.

About \$10 billion of that would be used to hire 10,000 new clinicians and patient care staff, and provide health care outside the VA system for veterans unable to get an appointment within a reasonable time frame.

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Military might be refuge for those from troubled homes

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Those who have served in the military are more likely to have suffered childhood abuse or to have lived in homes where there was violence than their nonmilitary counterparts, a study says.

The findings, released Wednesday by the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggest that the military could serve as a refuge for those seeking to escape troubled home lives. The research also could provide the military with added insight into its struggle to curb suicide in the ranks, as people who have experienced severe childhood abuse are at a higher risk of attempting suicide.

Still, researchers cautioned that it is too early to draw definitive conclusions from the study, which was a secondary analysis of data from a 2010 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey.

The data "leads to a lot of additional questions," said researcher Robert Bossarte, director of the epidemiology program of the post-deployment health group in the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Public Health and one of the lead authors of the study.

While there is well-established research that points to a connection between severe childhood abuse and assorted health issues later in life, researchers were hesitant to draw a clear connection between the study's findings and military suicide rates or other health issues.

"We don't know anything about whether or not these early life adversities are actually impacting the health of servicemembers," said co-author John Blonisch, of the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System. Such questions should be explored in future research, he said.

Blonisch, along with other Veterans Affairs and academic researchers, analyzed surveys of more than 60,000 people — conducted in 2010 by the centers for disease control and prevention across 10 states and the District of Columbia — to determine whether there was a link between exposure to adverse childhood events and military service. What the researchers found was that both men and women who have served since the draft ended were more likely to have experienced a wide range of childhood adversity than those who never joined the military. Exposure to abuse was particularly high among men, who had twice the prevalence of all forms of sexual abuse than their nonmilitary male peers.

Researchers found that both men and women who have served since the draft ended were more likely to have experienced a wide range of childhood adversity than those who never joined the military.

Troop suicides up slightly in 2014

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Suicides among active-duty military have increased a bit so far this year compared with the same period last year, but Pentagon officials say they are encouraged that more servicemembers are seeking help through hotlines and other aid programs.

Pentagon documents show there were 161 confirmed or suspected suicides as of July 14, compared with 154 during the same time frame in 2013. The uptick was among the Air Force and Navy, while soldiers and Marine suicides went down. The documents were obtained by The Associated Press.

While the 2014 numbers are likely to change over time as each death is investigated, the slight increase this year is a reversal in the sharp decline in active-duty suicides last year, compared with 2012.

According to the final report released Tuesday, active-duty suicides dropped by nearly 19 percent in 2013, compared with the previous year, going from 319 to 259.

While military women also experienced elevated rates of childhood physical and emotional abuse, their overall rates were closer to their nonmilitary counterparts than those of men, indicating that women are less inclined to see the military as a safe escape from domestic violence.

"One explanation may be that because men tend to be the perpetrators of interpersonal violence against women, women survivors may not view the military, an institution comprised mostly of men, to be a safe option," the study said.

Exposure to severe childhood abuse, whether physical or emotional, can have long-term health consequences, including linkages to post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse and risk for suicide, according to the study authors.

The findings come as the military continues to struggle with how to deal with high rates of suicide in the ranks, which increased slightly in the first part of 2014.

Among active-duty military there were 161 confirmed or suspected suicides as of July 14, compared with 154 during the same time frame in 2013, The Associated Press reported.

While combat-related stress can be one cause for suicide, there

Suicides among National Guard and Reservemen increased by about 8 percent, going from 203 to 220. The AP reported preliminary 2013 numbers in April.

Jacqueline Garrick, director of the Defense Department's suicide prevention office, said in an interview Tuesday that while there is always a concern when officials see the number start to go up again, it's still too early to tell because things could change.

She also noted that while often military suicides spike in the summer months, this year the number has gone down in the last month or so.

Garrick said servicemembers are increasingly using the help programs. For example, she said there has been a 25 percent increase in the calls to the military crisis line. And a website for troops — vets4warriors.com — saw a 500 percent increase in visitors after a suicide prevention program linked to it was publicized in late May.

are a host of other factors that come into play, including family and financial troubles and history of abuse.

Nearly half of suicides among active-duty personnel have been among people who have never deployed to war zones, according to the study, which cited a Defense Department report from 2011.

People with at least one so-called adverse childhood experience, which includes physical abuse or growing up in homes where there was violence, were more than twice as likely to report a suicide attempt, according to the study. Meanwhile, people with adverse events in four or more categories were nearly four times as likely to report having attempted suicide.

Researchers examined "adverse childhood events" in 11 categories, including living with someone who is mentally ill, alcoholic or incarcerated, as well as witnessing partner violence, being physically abused, touched sexually or forced to have sex.

The study's authors also compared military service during the all-volunteer era to the pre-1973 draft era.

During the all-volunteer era, men with military service had a higher prevalence of "adverse childhood events" in all 11 categories examined than those without military service.

Meanwhile, during the draft era, the only difference among men was in household drug use, where men with military service had a lower prevalence than men without military service.

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MILITARY

For-profit college must sell 85 campuses

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops should think twice before enrolling in one of the country's largest for-profit university chains as it faces the government-supervised sale of its campuses and charges it preyed on the military. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., warned Monday.

Corinthian Colleges is being forced by the U.S. Department of Education to sell off 85 nationwide subsidiary campuses, including WyoTech college locations popular with servicemembers. Its other 12 campuses are slated to close.

Durbin said the career colleges have been aggressively recruiting servicemembers and spouses who use military tuition assistance. Last week, the Senate gave some support to his proposal to rein in hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding flowing to the companies via tuition assistance.

"Before signing up for class and student debt, every student should know Corinthian schools are going out of business," Durbin said in a released statement Monday. "While my bill would bring much needed long-term reform to the for-profit college industry,

it can't prevent students from enrolling in a failed for-profit college tomorrow."

Career colleges such as those run by Corinthian are prohibited by law from getting more than 90 percent of revenue from the federal government. But tuition payments made through the new 9/11 GI Bill, military tuition assistance, and MyCAA funding for spouses are not counted toward the legal limit on federal aid, according to Durbin's office.

The Senate version of next year's defense spending bill, which passed committee last week, would close the loophole by requiring all military-related tuition assistance to be counted toward the federal cap.

Corinthian Colleges thrust regulatory concerns into the national spotlight last year when it disclosed a probe by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that sent stock prices tumbling. In June, the Department of Education froze federal payments to the company, citing claims of falsified job placement data as well as grades and attendance record tampering.

The California attorney general is also suing Corinthian Colleges and its subsidiaries WyoTech, Everest and Heald colleges for



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

A woman walks past Everest Institute in Silver Spring, Md., this month. The for-profit education firm Corinthian Colleges, which owns Everest College, Heald College and WyoTech schools, has agreed to close a dozen U.S. campuses in 11 states and place 85 up for sale.

"deceptive and false advertisements" and allegedly lying to investors about how many graduates found employment.

Corinthian Colleges targeted veterans returning from combat and internal company documents described its core demographic as isolated individuals with low self-esteem, who have few people who care for them and are wor-

ried about the future, according to the attorney general.

The state also claims that federal funds "account for almost all" of the company's annual revenue. Corinthian Colleges spokesman Kent Jenkins said it denies allegations it used predatory tactics or misleading marketing.

He said about 80 percent of the company's budget comes from

the federal government, while about 7 percent of students originate from the military.

"We take very strong issue with many of the things asserted in the California attorney general's suit," he said. "We are contesting that suit vigorously and we think the suit lacks merit."

The company signed an agreement with the Department of Education this month on relinquishing its campuses that is aimed at allowing about 72,000 students to continue schooling and complete their educations even if new owners take over, according to a copy published by the SEC.

Jenkins said the plan is for all campuses at WyoTech, a college that focuses on automotive trades and attracts most of the company's military students, and for Heald to remain open while Corinthian searches out buyers. The Everest campuses are slated to close.

Instruction "has been uninterrupted and it will be uninterrupted," Jenkins said. "All students are getting a disclosure. They understand these campuses are up for sale."

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Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR

Officers' Club 243-5030

Shrimpy's Over the Hump Shrimp Night

Thursday, July 24 from 1700 to 2100 in the Warehouse Restaurant
Our famous dinner specials are back. A superb selection of shrimp dishes to choose from or try our seafood salad bar, served with soups, beverage and sliver of a cake. All for only \$16. Open to all hands.

National Lasagna Day

Tuesday, July 29 from 1100 to 1330 in Warehouse Restaurant
Lasagna lovers look out! Chefs choice offerings on this day is regular classic, veggie or tofu lasagna along with chocolate lasagna as dessert. All for only \$10.

The Deli – Open to All Hands!

Monday-Friday from 0700 to 1800 / Saturday & Sunday from 0900 to 1800
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CPO Club 243-5506

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Mexican Platter

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All-You-Can-Eat Prime Rib

Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100

Treat yourself and indulge in our all-you-can eat prime rib accompanied with a wonderfully prepared buffet. Limited menu is also available. Only \$22.95

Club Alliance 243-3000

Sinfully Spicy Night

Saturday, July 26 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens
Set your taste buds ablaze with tantalizing fiery foods from places like Thailand, India and Mexico! Choose from our special menu of appetizers, entrées and desserts. Menu items will range from mildly spicy to "burn the roof off your mouth!"

All Hands' Weekly Texas Hold 'em Tournament

Saturdays from 1800 in 3rd Floor Sports Bar
Six players minimum and must be 18 or older to play. Play to win! First place receives 60% of the pot in an NEX Gift Card. Second receives a FREE buy-in for the next week, and third receives a great prize from Club Alliance. Complimentary appetizer buffet and cash bar available. \$30 buy-in for \$3000 in chips. Re-buys or extra chips are allowed for the first 30 minutes only for an additional \$1500 in chips for \$15. Sign-up at the Second Floor Cash cage or 3rd Floor Sports Bar.

Club Takemiya 246-8077

Mongolian BBQ

Wednesday from 1700 to 2100

Build your own bowl with a variety of meats and veggies topped off with the seasonings of your choice! 75¢/oz.

Core menu also available.

National Cheesecake Day

Wednesday, July 30

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Negishi Club 242-4151

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Sunday, July 27 from 0900 to 1330

We're now offering a full Sunday brunch on the last Sunday of every month! Invite your family and friends to our all you can eat brunch, which includes many of our a la carte favorites along with a variety of international breakfast and lunch entrées Only \$13.95

National Parent's Day

Sunday, July 27

We will have a variety of crafts and activities for children to enjoy during breakfast allowing parents to relax in style.

MILITARY

Australia to get 1st F-35 this week

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Australia will take delivery of its first F-35 Lightning II on Thursday from Lockheed Martin in Texas, according to an Australian Defence Force spokesman.

Australia — which plans to buy 72 F-35s — is among several close allies, including the United Kingdom and Japan, which plan to purchase the advanced combat jet despite a string of safety issues, including a recent engine fire that forced the plane to skip this month's Farnborough Airshow in southern England.

The United States is supposed to build almost 2,500 of the jets. Nine partner countries, including Australia, are involved in its production.

On Monday, the Australian Defence Force released a draft statement on the likely environmental impact of F-35 flight operations and invited members of the community to comment.

The draft statement compares expected impact of the F-35s with that of the F-18 Hornets already in service with the Royal Australian Air Force, according to a defense force statement.

The Australian F-35s will fly out of RAAF bases Williamtown in New South Wales state and Tindal in the Northern



Jon Hansen/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel addresses troops at the primary F-35 training center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., earlier this month. Australia is to receive its first of a planned 72 F-35s on Thursday.

Territory.

The aircraft will visit other RAAF bases in Darwin, Pearce, Amberley, Townsville and Edinburgh for training.

The first F-35 will arrive in Australia in late 2018, the statement said, adding that new facilities and infrastructure worth \$1.5 billion will be built to support the jets at Williamtown and Tindal.

The Defense Force's website says Australia will form three operational F-35A squadrons, one at Tindal and two at Williamtown, which will also host a training squadron.

The first F-35 squadron will be operational in 2021, and all 72 aircraft are expected to be fully operational by 2023.

In the future, a fourth operational squadron will be considered for Amberley, for a total of about 100 F-35As, the website states.

"The F-35A's combination of stealth, advanced sensors, networking and data fusion capabilities, when integrated with other defence systems, will enable the RAAF to maintain an air combat edge," the website states.

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Vet is accused of child abuse

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

The man who served as sergeant major of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, at the beginning of the war in Iraq has been charged with sexual abuse, molestation of a child and sexual conduct with a minor in Yuma, Ariz.

John Joseph Sixta, 54, was arrested July 1 and remains in custody in Yuma, officials said. Sixta is facing similar charges in Riverside, Calif., the Yuma Sun reported.

Sixta was portrayed as an over-the-top stickler for grooming standards in the HBO miniseries "Generation Kill," insisting that Marines tuck in their shirts and shave their mustaches.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Sixta worked as a military free fall instructor for the Army's B Company, 1st Special Warfare Training Group at Yuma Proving Ground.

Yuma police said Sixta is accused of molesting a 12-year-old girl in early January. The girl reported the incident to her mother, who called the police.

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Sixta

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

New AF satellite to keep eye on other satellites

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is about to put a new advanced satellite into space to spy on other countries' satellites.

A Delta IV rocket was scheduled to launch Wednesday night from Cape Canaveral Air Station, Fla., and place two Geosynchronous Space Situational Awareness Program satellites into orbit. They will be the first GSSAP satellites ever launched.

"This neighborhood watch two-some ... will be on the lookout for nefarious capability other nations might try to place in that critical orbital regime," Gen. William Shelton, the head of Air Force Space Command, told reporters at the Pentagon.

Because of its enhanced maneuvering capabilities, the GSSAP satellite can get the best possible vantage point for collecting images of other satellites, according to Shelton.

He said the imagery capabilities on the new satellites are "a big leap forward" compared with the ones the U.S. has been using to monitor objects circling the earth.

"Today the way we track

threats in geosynchronous orbit is by basically points of light, and as we take a picture of the sky, [we know] things that are moving are satellites, things that are stationary are stars. ... Through our points of light and various other means, we make inferences on what a particular satellite can do," Shelton explained.

Te GSSAP "gives us an ability ... to look at literal images of objects in geosynchronous orbit," Shelton said. "... A picture is worth a thousand inferences because we can see literally what that satellite looks like, and you can effectively reverse-engineer and understand what the capabilities are ... to a much greater extent than you can today."

The launch comes at a time when China is rapidly improving its space and anti-satellite capabilities. Pentagon planners worry that in a future conflict, Beijing might shoot down or disable American military satellites that are critical for communications, intelligence-gathering, and targeting.

"There are myriad counter-space threats that we are seeing on the near horizon," Shelton said.



Courtesy of NASA

Smoke and steam roll across Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida as a Delta IV rocket clears the tower with the GOES-O satellite aboard in 2009. The first-ever launch of the new GSSAP surveillance satellite was scheduled at Cape Canaveral on Wednesday night.

"We're going to have to adjust our spacecraft constellations to survive in a very different environment from what we've had in the past," and we need "much better situational awareness of what's going on — hence GSSAP."

Shelton was asked specifically whether he was worried about space-based weapons or electromagnetic pulse weapons being used against U.S. military satellites.

"All of the above," he replied.

Shelton declined to go into detail about what capabilities the Pentagon is developing to thwart enemy anti-satellite weapons.

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Humanists head to the Hill to seek chaplain status

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Rebuffed by the military, atheists and humanists made their case Tuesday on Capitol Hill for chaplains to represent hundreds of thousands of troops who profess no religious faith.

The military chaplaincy has already made it clear that it doesn't want to help troops who want support for spiritual questions that don't involve belief in supernatural deities, former Army officer Jason Torpy told a roomful of congressional staffers, so perhaps Congress can help.

"They don't understand us, and they don't want to," said Torpy, who runs the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers. "That is the message they are now sending — any service we receive will be theistic, whether it helps us or not. That's not chaplaincy; it's just self-inflicted evangelism."

Supporters of a traditional chaplaincy have reacted with bewilderment and scorn at the idea of chaplains who reject the idea of a God. But the Rev. Stephen Boyd, a former military chaplain from the liberal United Church of Christ denomination, told the audience

"The military is beginning to start to more accurately reflect our society. However, the military chaplaincy is not reflecting the diversity that we're seeing within our military ranks."

The Rev. Stephen Boyd
United Church of Christ

that chaplains are a key part of unit operations. They can't wholly be avoided by servicemembers, he said, because they help plan deployments, arrange ethics and anti-suicide training and provide confidential counseling.

Just as the military has become increasingly open to diversity in recent years — including a broadening role for women and recognition of gays and lesbians in uniform — it should now incorporate nontheists into the chaplaincy, Boyd said.

"We've seen that the military is beginning to start to more accurately reflect our society," he said. "However, the military chaplaincy is not reflecting the diversity that we're seeing within

our military ranks."

Signals from the military have been mixed. The Army in recent months allowed soldiers for the first time to designate "humanist" as a religious preference, but the Navy rebuffed a prospective chaplain candidate sponsored by the Humanist Society.

Jason Heap, an atheist who holds master's degrees in divinity and religious history, applied for a commission as a chaplain in July 2013 and learned in late May that he'd been turned down.

Another speaker at the Capitol Hill event, Army Maj. Ryan Jean, likewise got nowhere when he applied in 2011 to become a humanist "lay leader" — an assistant to chaplains who would help them

minister to humanists and other nontheists.

Jean, who already considered himself an atheist, developed humanist beliefs based on ethics and science after being berated by a Christian chaplain while deployed to Iraq.

People like him have the same needs as other groups, Jean said — a positive community to be part of, a place to meet and a chance to be counseled by chaplains who won't try to change their beliefs. A few humanist chaplains wouldn't upset the balance of the heavily Christian chaplaincy, he said.

"With so many options available for Christian denominations, the expansion of this small element of self-expression for humanists should be a no-brainer," Jean said.

A former Navy chaplain and the head of a group that represents chaplains of all stripes, retired Capt. Jack Lea said it pained him to hear stories about abusive and unprofessional conduct by chaplains.

But most chaplains, regardless of faith group, would serve atheists without spiritually bludgeoning or trying to convert them, said Lea, executive director of the Na-

tional Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces.

Lea said his group doesn't take a stance on whether atheists ought to be chaplains but said the establishment of nonreligious chaplains could have far-reaching consequences for the chaplaincy and military alike.

"Today they ID'd a potential need and said the current system does not seem constructed in a way to meet the needs," he said. "That may be fair, but that doesn't mean we should change the traditional, historical, constitutional office of chaplain."

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EUROPE

Homicide: Germany's stance against death penalty could affect AFN case

FROM FRONT PAGE

Before handing over all of the evidence to U.S. investigators, the Germans sought — and initially received — assurances from the Americans that the death penalty was not on the table, according to Achim Nünemann, senior prosecutor for the city of Kaiserslautern.

Before the handover, however, the Americans told Kaiserslautern prosecutors that Oliver could face execution after all.

That prompted the Germans to back out of some of the physical evidence, Nünemann said.

Under the law, the Germans must do all they can to refrain from cooperating with the guest military, in this case, the U.S., on anything that would lead to a death sentence, said Dieter Deiseroth, a legal expert on the SOFA and a judge at Germany's federal administrative court.

Based on the constitution and corresponding case law, German authorities can only cooperate "when we know that it will not come to a death penalty," said Udo Gehring, lead prosecutor in Kaiserslautern. "This is not a matter of interpretation ... it is a clear point of law."

Air Force prosecutors would not speculate on how missing evidence might affect the strength of their case against Oliver.

Army Maj. Don Mitchell Franco, the armed forces regional medical examiner who conducted a second autopsy six days after Chepusov's death, told an Article 32 hearing Friday that without being able to examine the missing tissue, she could not definitively determine the cause of death, although injuries appeared to be "consistent" with strangulation. The missing portion included the hyoid bone, a small U-shaped bone in the neck that can be frac-

tured during strangulation.

The U.S. military has yet to decide whether to seek a death sentence for Oliver, who is alleged to have killed Chepusov "with premeditation" by strangling him with his hands, according to Oliver's charge sheet. The Uniform Code of Military Justice says the death penalty can be applied if the slaying was premeditated.

Nünemann, the Kaiserslautern senior prosecutor, said his office is willing to cooperate — if the U.S. military takes the death penalty off the table.

"If they want the exhibit (physical evidence), they need to do something," he said.

Investigating officer Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Leavey, who presided over Oliver's Article 32, a pretrial hearing, is expected to recommend specific charges against Oliver and whether the death penalty should be sought. The final decision is up to the convening authority, 3rd Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Darryl L. Roberson.

The death penalty is a rare outcome in military trials, especially in the Air Force. No military member has been executed since 1961, when Army Pvt. John Bennett was hanged for raping an 11-year-old Austrian girl seven years earlier and attempting to drown her. Andrew Witt, convicted of killing a fellow airman and his wife at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia in 2004, is the only airman on death row at Fort Leavenworth's prison.

There are five other service members on death row, all soldiers, all enlisted — except for former Maj. Nidal Hasan, who was sentenced to death for a 2009 rampage that killed 13 people and wounded 30 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Chepusov's brother, Dennis Bushmitch, 43, said his family



Chepusov

opposes the death penalty for Oliver and is asking the German authorities to provide full cooperation.

"We are urging the Americans not to pursue the death penalty," Bushmitch said. He and younger brother Andrew Chepusov attended Oliver's Article 32 hearing at Ramstein Air Base. "We ask the German government to fully cooperate ... and release any evidence that they're still holding back, which is important to the case, because justice needs to be served."

During the Article 32, Air Force Maj. Shane McCammon, defense counsel for Oliver, noted that Franco, the Army medical examiner, first reported Chepusov's cause of death as undetermined, only later revising her findings after consulting with fellow medical examiners at Dover

Air Force Base, Del.

"This is an unusual situation, to not have any of that tissue in this area," Franco said.

McCammon asked whether Franco was able to collect any DNA evidence, either from under the victim's fingernails or from his neck area. Franco said she was not because the body had been washed before she received it, a week after his death. The victim's hands were blackened with fingerprint ink.

She said she didn't know whether the Germans had collected any DNA evidence during their autopsy.

In addition to the victim's throat, Franco said, the Germans also kept Chepusov's tongue.

"I've been told there were political motivations for retaining" the evidence, Franco testified.

Germany has long been one of the most outspoken critics of the death penalty in Europe, opposing it on ethical, moral and legal grounds.

It outlawed the death penalty after the Nuremberg trials, where the widespread use of the

death penalty by Nazi courts within Germany and in occupied territories came to light. Article 102 of Germany's constitution says simply: "The death penalty is abolished."

Most European countries have a commitment not to assist human rights violations, including executions, said James Connell III, an attorney at the Pentagon's Office of the Chief Defense Counsel.

Connell cited the case involving Jens Soering, a German citizen accused of killing two people in Virginia in 1985. Germany fought Soering's extradition to the United States on the basis that the defendant might be executed if convicted, Connell said.

The government of Britain, where Soering had been arrested on check fraud charges, extradited him only after obtaining assurances from Virginia that it would not charge him with capital murder.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report. svan.jenifer@stripes.com
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NATION

Survey finds rise in teen HGH use

Percentage of high school students reporting use of synthetic human growth hormones doubled in 2013

By DAVID CRARY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Experimentation with human growth hormones by America's teens more than doubled in the past year, as more young people looked to drugs to boost their athletic performance and improve their looks, according to a new, large-scale national survey.

In a confidential 2013 survey of 3,705 high school students being released Wednesday by the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, 11 percent reported using synthetic HGH at least once — up from about 5 percent in the four preceding annual surveys. Teen use of steroids increased from 5 percent to 7 percent over the same period, the survey found.

Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, depicted the numbers as alarming but not surprising, given the extensive online marketing of performance-enhancing substances and near-total lack of any drug testing for high school athletes.

"It's what you get when you combine aggressive promotion from for-profit companies with a vulnerable target — kids who want a quick fix and don't care about health risk," Tygart said in an interview. "It's a very easy sell, unfortunately."

Ninety percent of teen girls reported trying synthetic HGH and 12 percent of boys.

"A picture emerges of teens — both boys and girls — entering a largely unregulated marketplace (online and in-store) in which performance-enhancing substances of many varieties are aggressively promoted with promises of improved muscle mass, performance and appearance," the report said. "This is an area of apparently growing interest and potential danger to teens trying to cut out for marketing on manufacture and marketing."

Given the high cost of authentic HGH, it's possible that some of the teens who reported using it may in fact have obtained fake products. As the survey said, "It's very difficult to know what exactly is in the substances, whether consuming, or what the short and long-term impact on their health may be."

Steve Pasierb, president of the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, said the motives of today's youthful dopers were different from the rebellious or escapist attitudes that traditionally accompanied teen drinking and pot-smoking.

"This is about how you feel, how you look," Pasierb said. "They're doing this thing to get ahead. ... Girls want to be thin and toned. For a lot of boys, it's about their six-pack."

He urged parents to talk can-

More on the survey

In addition to human growth hormone use, the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids survey also reported on other forms of substance abuse. Among its findings:

• Forty-four percent of teens report using marijuana at least once within their lifetime; 24 percent report using within the past month; and 7 percent report using at least 20 times within the past month. Those levels have remained stable over their lifetime.

• After a sharp increase in teen misuse and abuse of prescription drugs in 2012, the rate remained stable in 2013, with 23 percent of teens reporting such abuse or misuse at least once. Fifteen percent reported having used the prescription painkillers Vicodin or Oxycotin without a prescription at the same point.

The survey of 3,705 students in grades 9-12 was conducted at their schools between February and June 2013.

The margin of error was calculated at plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

— David Crary

dily with their children about the dangers of performance-enhancing substances, but to avoid moralizing.

"It's not about illegality, or whether you're a good parent or bad parent," he said. "It's a health issue. These substances literally alter your body."

Pasierb said high school coaches have a key role in combatting doping. Some are vigilant, others oblivious and perhaps a third are prepared to tolerate doping in the interests of winning, he said.

The new survey noted that the upsurge in teen HGH use occurred even as famous athletes doping. Some are vigilant, others oblivious and perhaps a third are prepared to tolerate doping in the interests of winning, he said. The survey noted that the upsurge in teen HGH use occurred even as famous athletes doping. Some are vigilant, others oblivious and perhaps a third are prepared to tolerate doping in the interests of winning, he said.

One of Armstrong's former teammates is Tyler Hamilton, who was forced to return his 2004 Olympic gold medal after being found guilty of doping. In recent public appearances, Hamilton has implored young athletes to resist the temptation to dope.

"There's so much pressure on winning — it's tough for these kids to stay true to themselves," he said. "I can't change every kid's mind, but if I can do my part and other people do their part, we can beat this monster."



JOHN MINICILLO/AP

Richard Watkins holds a sign during a vigil in New York on Tuesday demanding justice for Eric Garner, a Staten Island man who died while being arrested by New York City police.

Police custody death brings NYC's 'Broken Windows' tactic under fire

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eric Garner, who died in police custody last week after he was put in an apparent chokehold, was suspected of committing the relatively minor crime of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes on the street.

The encounter was an unintended consequence of the New York City Police Department's embrace of the policing tactic called "Broken Windows" — the idea that going after smaller crimes such as public drinking or graffiti helps stop greater disorder such as assault and murder.

But Garner's death has put Broken Windows under renewed scrutiny, with some lawmakers and experts saying the decades-old theory no longer applies to a city with far less crime, unnecessarily puts nonviolent people at risk and fuels tensions in the city's minority communities.

"I don't think it's a necessary police tactic," City Councilman Andy King said Tuesday during a news conference about Garner's death. City Councilwoman Inez Barron added that such enforcement "leads to confrontations like this."

The tactic caused a stir even before Garner's death. An 84-year-old pedestrian on Manhattan's Upper West Side who tussled with police officers trying to stop him for jaywalking earlier this year

ended up with a bloody head injury. He's since filed a \$5 million claim against the city alleging he was assaulted.

The Garner case has turned up the heat. His arrest was captured on a widely distributed amateur video that

‘There is no human being who can look at that video and say nothing wrong occurred.’

Jumaane Williams

New York City councilman

Autopsy results are pending on a death that has sparked protests, a criminal probe and a warning by the Rev. Al Sharpton that Garner's family would explore asking for a federal civil rights investigation. The family held a candlelight vigil Tuesday night on the eve of a funeral set for Wednesday night.

The criticism comes at a time when the new administration of Mayor Bill de Blasio has sought to ease tensions between police and minorities by curtailing the

department's widespread use of street stops of young men — so-called "stop and frisk" — as a strategy to curb crime. De Blasio's pick for police commissioner, William Bratton, uses Broken Windows as an alternative tool to help keep crime rates at historic lows.

Bratton vowed on Tuesday to stick with the program, saying the NYPD plans to next target illegal vendors who rent bikes in Central Park. He credited a similar crackdown on fare beaters during his first tenure as police commissioner in the 1990s with being the "tipping point" for a drastic reduction in overall crime in the subways.

"There's no change in that focus at all," Bratton said of Broken Windows. "That's a key part of what we're doing."

But critics say Broken Windows is broken.

"This is a defining moment for that administration," said City Councilman Jumaane Williams. "There is no human being who can look at that video and say nothing wrong occurred."

The idea that the approach reduces serious crime is a hypothesis without any data to back it up, said Brooklyn College sociology professor Alex Vitale.

"Twenty years ago, if an officer had brought in Eric Garner for selling loose cigarettes, his sergeant would have laughed him out of the precinct house," Vitale said.

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NATION



STEVE RINGMAN, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Mark Arnold is an assistant grower for pot producer AuricAG in Seattle, Wash., a state that allows commercial pot sales. Pot opponents seem to be few and far between, while those seeking legalization have deep pockets and more advocates.

Just say no? Hello? Anyone?

Groups against pot legalization find little support for cause

By RICHARD LEIBY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As pro-marijuana forces deployed their sidewalk soldiers to gather signatures to put pot legalization on the District of Columbia's November ballot, Aaron McCormick, 47, a city native and father of three, watched with growing alarm.

Somebody must stop this scourge, he decided. But how?

McCormick says he knew of no group fighting the initiative, heard no opposition to it in his church and got no traction for his anti-weed views on his vibrant Twitter account, @blackmanhelping, where he opines on local affairs.

McCormick, a construction project manager, considered challenging the ballot initiative himself, but he ultimately realized the futility of fighting an army of marijuana advocates.

Such is the lonely lot of today's pot opponent. Parents like McCormick, once heroes of the just-say-no 1980s, find themselves outgunned. The anti-marijuana movement has little funding or staff, little momentum and, it appears, little audience.

Decriminalization went into effect last week in the District of Columbia, setting a \$25 penalty for possession of up to an ounce of weed. Earlier in July, pro-marijuana activists scored another victory, submitting 57,000 voter signatures, more than double the number required to bring the ballot measure, which could add the District of Columbia to the vanguard of legalization along with Colorado and Washington state.

"To me, we just came out of the crack epidemic and are still seeing its effects," McCormick said. "Now we want to allow people to smoke marijuana 24/7?"

It would seem so. More than half of Americans support legalization, various polls show. The Pew Re-

search Center has found that 48 percent have tried pot. Seventeen states plus D.C. have eliminated jail time for possession, and medical marijuana is now OK in nearly half of the United States (23 states plus the District of Columbia).

"Interestingly, whenever we have a debate on TV, we hear the producer asking, 'Who can we get to debate against marijuana?'" said Tony Newman, spokesman for the reformist Drug Policy Alliance.

The cable-show bookers' "con" choices are indeed scant.

"It's unbelievable what's happened," said Robert DuPont, a psychiatrist who was the first director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the 1970s. "You can't find anybody to speak on the other side." The leaders in both parties have completely abandoned the issue."

DuPont, an addiction specialist, could hold his own in any debate about drugs. He and other experts point to research showing that 9 percent of marijuana users become addicted, a figure that rises to 16 percent when use begins in teen years. In various studies, weed also is linked to lower academic performance and mental illness and other health problems.

The marijuana normalization movement counters such findings by citing the devastating results of alcohol and tobacco dependency and abuse, for example, and the palliative effects of marijuana as medicine. They say the disproportionately higher rate of minorities' arrests and incarceration for pot-related offenses have caused greater social harm — which became a major selling point for decriminalization in the District of Columbia.

Backed by deep-pocketed funders, the legalizers deploy lobbyists, spokesmen and researchers from well-staffed organizations.

"These guys are in a full-court press coming at you from every angle," said DuPont, 78, who runs the Institute for Behavior and Health, a small organization based in Rockville, Md. He sounds exasperated. "They have a bench 1,000 people deep. ... We've got Kevin Sabat."

Sabat, 35, first testified before the Senate against drug legalization when he was 17 and now runs an anti-pot-legalization group called Smart Approaches to Marijuana, or SAM. Last year he made No. 1 on Rolling Stone's "Legalization's Biggest Enemies" list.

"Do we want a stoned America?" asked Sabat, who has served drug czars in the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations.

"Is that where we want to go at a time when America's place in the world, in terms of academic and economic competitiveness, is greatly threatened? Good luck." Based in Cambridge, Mass., Sabat said he commits "100-plus hours a week" to raising the alarm and to help from SAM affiliates in 27 states.

Promoting a message of compassion for the sick, medical marijuana advocates led the way in the 1990s to a more accepting public view toward recreational pot. The number of pro-pot groups began to surge.

"It's our fault," Sabat said, but he cites one mitigating factor: "They have money and we don't."

Still, other forces explain why reform has caught on now, including supportive baby boomer voters, a lingering recession that dampened government revenue, making the taxation of marijuana tempting; and an overwhelming public view that alcohol prohibition was a "great failed experiment," said Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Arrest linked to gun used after marathon bombing

The Associated Press

BOSTON — It has been one of the lingering questions since the dramatic manhunt that gripped the Boston area in the days after the marathon bombings: Where did the suspects get the gun that authorities say they used to kill a university police officer?

Answers may come soon with the arrest Tuesday of a man that people with knowledge of the investigation say supplied his friend Dzhokhar Tsarnaev with the weapon.

Stephen Silva made an initial appearance in federal court on charges related to heroin trafficking and possession of a handgun with an obliterated serial number.

Silva's attorney, Jonathan Shapiro, said Tuesday evening that he had received the case only a few

hours earlier.

"According to news reports, law enforcement officials say it is the same weapon that was used ... in the MIT officer Sean Collier shooting," he said. "However, this has not been charged in the indictment."

The 9 mm Ruger pistol described in the indictment is the same handgun that was used to kill the Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer, according to the two people, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The grand jury indictment, which was filed July 15, does not mention Collier's slaying or any connection to Tsarnaev.

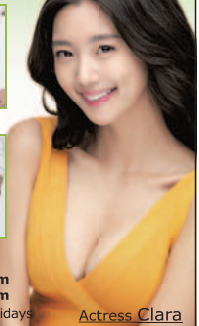
Silva said in court Tuesday that he graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in 1911, the same year as Tsarnaev.

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NATION

Courts split on nation's health care law

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The legal battle over President Barack Obama's health care law ramped up again Tuesday as two federal appeals courts handed down conflicting rulings on whether the government can continue to pay subsidies nationwide to millions of low- and middle-income people to help them with the cost of insurance.

The split decisions on a central element of the law increase the chances that the Supreme Court will take up another challenge to the Affordable Care Act as early as the coming year.

The legal battle gives ACA opponents another shot at trying to kill the law in the high court, a goal they fell one vote short of in 2012. In that case, four justices voted to strike down the entire legislation as unconstitutional. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joined the four liberal justices to uphold the core of the law.

Time, the outcome at the high court would turn on whether at least one of the five conservative justices agreed to uphold Congress' broad goal of providing all Americans with insurance they can afford.

Soon after the Affordable Care Act won final approval in 2010, conservative groups pointed out an anomaly in its wording. The problem involved a key section of the law, which called for creating insurance marketplaces, or "exchanges," where buyers could shop for coverage. People with low or middle incomes — up to \$94,200 for a family of four — are offered tax credits to help pay for the insurance.

These exchanges were to be run by states. But if states refused the job, Congress authorized federal officials to "operate such exchange within the state" and carry out all the required duties. However, in another part of the law, Congress said tax credits would be offered for insurance purchased through an "exchange established by the state."

Conservative legal groups have argued ever since that the wording "exchange established by the state" does not include the federal exchange. That reading of the law would block insurance subsidies in two-thirds of the nation.

Currently, only 14 states run their own exchanges. In 36 states, the exchange is run by the federal government. Some states that ran their own exchanges this year but had trouble have announced plans to use the federal exchange for the open enrollment season that begins in November.

About 5 million Americans bought subsidized policies through the federal exchange this year, often reducing their costs by hundreds of dollars a month, health care experts say.

Two years ago, the Internal Revenue Service interpreted the law to mean that tax credits would be available for insurance purchased through any government-run exchange, regardless of whether it was run by state or

The Washington Post

Test: Fake applicants got health plans through federal exchange

WASHINGTON — In undercover tests of the new federal health insurance marketplace, government investigators have been able to procure health plans and federal subsidies for fake applicants with fictitious documents, according to findings that will be disclosed to lawmakers on Wednesday.

The results of the inquiry by the Government Accountability Office are evidence of still-imperfect work by specialists intended to assist new insurance customers and government contractors hired to verify that coverage and subsidies are legitimate.

According to testimony to be delivered before a House Ways and Means subcom-

mittee, undercover GAO investigators tried to obtain health plans for a dozen fictitious applicants online or by phone, using invalid or missing Social Security numbers or inaccurate citizenship information.

All but one of those fake applicants ended up getting subsidized coverage — and have kept it. In once instance, an application was denied but then approved on a second try. In six other attempts to sign up fake applicants via in-person assisters, just one assister accurately told an investigator that the applicant's income was too high for a subsidy.

In their testimony, GAO officials plan to emphasize that the findings are preliminary and that they are continuing the investiga-

tion before reaching final conclusions, probably next year. The tests have been made in several states, which the GAO is not identifying because the work is not finished.

House Republicans were eager for information, because the findings reinforce their contention that the administration set up the marketplace in ways that leave it vulnerable to fraud and waste of taxpayer money.

The GAO investigation was requested before the marketplace opened by House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich.; Rep. Charles Boustany Jr., R-La., chairman of the Ways and Means oversight subcommittee; and Sens. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. and Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

federal authorities.

Conservative groups and Republican attorneys joined in four lawsuits to challenge that IRS rule. The two leading cases led to Tuesday's opposing rulings.

In Washington, an appeals court focused strictly on the wording of the law and struck down the IRS rule on a 2-1 vote.

"A federal exchange is not an 'exchange established by the state,'" Judge Thomas Griffith said for the D.C. Circuit Court. His

ruling would not allow tax credits in the 36 states with federally run exchanges.

Within hours, however, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., upheld the IRS rule. In its 3-0 decision, the judges focused on the overall intent of the law.

They noted that the congressional sponsors wanted to provide affordable coverage to all and had devised the exchanges and the subsidies as a means to that end.

By that logic, the judges concluded, it made no sense to deny the subsidies to millions whose states chose not to run an exchange.

Judge Roger Gregory, who was first nominated by President Bill Clinton and later appointed by President George W. Bush, wrote that the wording of the law was "ambiguous and subject to multiple interpretations." But in such a case, the balance tips in favor of the agency charged with implementing the law, he said.

Moreover, the "economic framework supporting the Act would crumble if the credits were unavailable on federal exchanges," since millions of Americans could not afford to buy insurance, he wrote. Judges Stephanie Thacker and Andre Davis, both Obama appointees, joined him.

The pair of rulings will have no immediate impact pending further appeals, government officials said.

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NATION

Bases can hold 5,000 more kids

DOD adds to 2,500 migrants already at military facilities

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will provide housing space for up to an additional 5,000 unaccompanied Central American children who have illegally come across the border, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Wednesday.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel signed the authorization last week at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Hagel's order also extends the housing assistance mission to Jan. 31, 2015. In May, the Pentagon committed to providing space to up to 3,600 children for 120 days. There are 2,500 children being housed at Fort Sill, Okla.; Naval Base Ventura County, Calif.; and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, according to Warren.

The Defense Department has not selected the bases where the additional 5,000 might be placed.

"We have not determined where these additional 5,000 spaces will come from. We are conducting assessments now to determine where we can best handle this influx of capacity ... There's a fairly extensive list of possible locations," Warren said.

DOD has not yet authorized space to be provided at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Warren said. JBLM has been rumored to be a fourth potential housing location that the Pentagon is considering.

DOD is not directly involved in caring for the children. The department is merely providing unused space on military bases to be used by HHS. The Pentagon will be reimbursed by HHS for any expenses incurred in the housing assistance mission, according to officials.

The Obama administration has said that it intends to repatriate the unaccompanied children to their home countries eventually.

On Capitol Hill Wednesday, House Republicans moved to slash President Barack Obama's emergency spending request for the U.S.-Mexican border, speed young migrants back home to Central America, and send Obama's proposed solution to a Senate Obama's proposed solution to the crisis on the border. They put the House on a collision course with the Democratic-run Senate, and increased the likelihood that congressional efforts to address the crisis on the border, where unaccompanied young people have been showing up by the tens of thousands, will end in stalemate. There is little time to resolve it because Congress' annual August recess is just around the corner.

More than 57,000 minors have arrived since October, mostly from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

A 2008 law guarantees them judicial hearings, which in practice allows them to stay in this country for years — before any deportation can be carried out — because of backlogs in immigration courts.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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MIKE BONNICKSEN, WENATCHEE (WASH.) WORLD/AP

Jake Hixon, center and Kathy Harding look for belongings at a relative's house on Monday after a fire swept through Pateros, Wash.

Crews make gains on massive Wash. fire

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Firefighters made progress Tuesday in their efforts to get the largest wildfire in Washington state's history under control, with wetter weather bringing some relief but also raising concerns about flash flooding.

The Carlton Complex of fires, which has burned nearly 400 square miles in the north-central part of the state, was 16 percent contained as of Tuesday, fire spokeswoman Jessica Payne said. A day earlier, the fire was just 2 percent contained.

Firefighters and local authorities have been heartened by forecasts that call for cooler temperatures and higher humidity. But even though wetter weather has moved in, they worry that lightning strikes could ignite more fires.

Rain also brought worries about the potential for flash flooding because so much ground vegetation has been burned away.

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch from Wednesday morning through Wednesday evening due to expected heavy rainfall.

Still, the weather change was a positive development.

"The cooler weather and the moisture has cooled aspects of the fire down," fire

spokeswoman Susan Peterson said Tuesday evening.

Speaking at a fundraiser Tuesday in Seattle, President Barack Obama said the wildfire, along with other Western blazes, can be attributed to climate change.

"A lot of it has to do with drought, a lot of it has to do with changing precipitation patterns and a lot of that has to do with climate change," the president said.

Obama also said Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Craig Fugate had authorized an emergency

Jay Inslee
Washington governor

declaration to ensure communities that lost power because of burned power lines and poles get electrical power.

At more than 250,000 acres, the Carlton Complex is larger than the 1902 Yacolt Burn, which consumed 238,920 acres in southwestern Washington state and was

the state's largest recorded forest fire until now, according to HistoryLink.org, an online resource of Washington state history.

The fire is being blamed for one death. Rob Koczewski, 67, died of an apparent heart attack Saturday while he and his wife were hauling water and digging fire lines near their home. Koczewski was a retired Washington State Patrol trooper and U.S. Marine.

The number of homes destroyed in the Carlton Complex fire remained at 150, Payne said. More than 2,100 firefighters and support crew are involved with fighting the fire, she said.

Karina Shagren, spokeswoman for the state's Military Department, said the National Guard has already been offering aerial support, but 100 National Guard troops were now being used on the ground for firefighting and additional troops were receiving firefighting training for potential future use.

Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee briefed Obama on the fire situation after the president arrived in Seattle on Tuesday afternoon at the start of a three-day West Coast trip.

"We have real significant challenges," Inslee said. "To have the president here today is actually a stroke of luck."

'We have real significant challenges. To have the president here today is actually a stroke of luck.'

4 months after mudslide 43rd and final victim is found

By MARK BERMAN
The Washington Post

Four months after a mudslide ravaged a portion of Washington state, authorities announced Tuesday that they had located its final victim.

Rescue workers in Snohomish County found the body of Molly Kristine "Kris" Regelbrugge, 44, on Tuesday morning, offering an unexpected bit of closure to a search that seemed, in many ways, as though it would never fully end.

"I'm humbled and honored that we are

able to return Kris to her family," Sheriff Ty Trenary said in a statement. "I'm also extremely grateful to the communities of Oso, Darrington and Arlington who stood beside us these past four months in our efforts to recover all of the missing victims."

Although no survivors had been found since the day of the slide, workers continued to dig through the debris and search for bodies.

The active search was called off in late April, more than a month after the slide that killed 43 people and left a trail of devastation.

When the search was called off, the bodies of two victims — Regelbrugge and Steve Hadaway — were still missing, so the official death toll remained at 41.

Even though active search operations were called off, workers continued to try to look through the debris field and seek clues. In May, workers found a body that the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed several days later was that of Hadaway.

On Tuesday around 8 a.m., search personnel located Regelbrugge's body.

UKRAINE UNREST

Outrage boils after crash, but impact unclear

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

The downing of a Malaysian Airlines jet has unleashed global outrage aircraft never called by the United States for strong measures against Russia, including tough economic sanctions because of Moscow's support for Ukrainian separatists widely believed behind the attack.

It remains unclear whether the deaths of 298 people aboard the downed aircraft will be enough to prompt many European countries to overcome their reluctance for painful economic or diplomatic measures that would endanger their own economies and as a worst-case scenario trigger a new Cold War.

"Judging on past experience, it could be a major story in the news for a few months and then it will go away," said Gideon Ewers, a former senior official of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, which represents more than 100,000 commercial pilots worldwide.

Since 1973, at least nine commercial airliners have been shot down or forced to land under fire over conflict zones, despite procedures such as restricted airspace to minimize the threat to civil aviation.

So far no one has been prosecuted for those attacks, and no military action has ever been taken against the parties involved. Most responses have been limited to censures or negotiations in which governments responsible end up paying compensation to the victims.

They include Israel's downing of a Libyan airliner in 1973; the shoot-down of a

South Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter in 1982; and an attack on an Iranian Airbus by the USS Vincennes over the Persian Gulf in 1988, in which all 290 people on board died and which President Ronald Reagan described as a legitimate act of self-defense.

'Any given event may be tremendously painful ... but the degree of public interest does not correlate with the degree of national or international impact.'

Jacqueline Hazelton
counterterrorism expert,
U.S. Naval War College

military transport, British Prime Minister David Cameron described the incident as "an outrage made in Moscow" and urged the world to turn outrage "into a moment of action."

Ewers, now an aviation consultant, believes that's unlikely based on past incidents. Many of those previous attacks produced international condemnation but no lasting impact on civil aviation safety procedures.

Jacqueline Hazelton, a counterterrorism lecturer at the U.S. Naval War College, said a measured response is not an altogether bad thing. Emotional, hair-trigger responses "can have costs for national interests in the form of hastily made choices or distraction from more important, longer-term problems and opportunities," she told Stars and Stripes.

"Any given event may be tremendously painful and lead the news everywhere for a short time, but the degree of public interest does not correlate with the degree of national or international impact," she said.

Not everyone agreed there would be no lasting consequences.

Nick Witney, a former head of the European Defense Agency, said the Malaysian plane attack may have long-term effects on the way Vladimir Putin's Russia is perceived in Europe and Asia.

"To the extent that there was any sympathy for the separatist cause, the rebels' behavior would have seriously eroded it," said Witney, now a senior fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "What this also does is to show how irresponsible the Kremlin has been in its campaign to destabilize Ukraine. This may influence some European policy makers to abandon efforts to treat Russia as a strategic partner and view it more in terms of an adversary."

The geopolitical intelligence firm Stratfor suggested that accusations of Russian involvement in the crash may ultimately weaken Putin domestically if Russians perceive him as "a dangerous incompetent

supporting a hopeless insurrection with wholly inappropriate weapons." Nonetheless, Putin's standing among Russians still appears high.

Even before the MH17 incident, both the United States and the European Union had imposed limited sanctions against Russia for the occupation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and for allegedly backing the separatists. Moscow denies supporting the rebellion.

The crash immediately sparked calls by the Obama administration for stern measures such as a ban on weapons exports to Russia and restrictions on its access to capital markets. The administration has said the attack should be a "wake-up call for the Europeans" for a tougher stand against Moscow.

Still, it is unlikely the Europeans will act soon.

Many European countries — which have strong trade ties with Moscow and import about a quarter of their energy from Russia — have so far been reluctant to go along with anything but largely symbolic sanctions.

On Tuesday, European Union foreign ministers again agreed to expand a list of Russian officials and businessmen targeted by asset freezes and visa bans. The ministers declined to adopt a proposed arms embargo against Moscow, thus allowing France to go ahead with delivery of the first of four 20,000-ton helicopter carriers to Russia.

lekic.slobodan@stripes.com

Mourning: As Dutch grieve, fighting in Ukraine continues

FROM FRONT PAGE

British investigators began work on a pair of "black boxes" to retrieve data on the flight's last minutes, while Dutch officials said they have taken charge of the stalled investigation of the airline disaster and pleaded for unhindered access to the wreckage.

The Dutch and Australian military transport planes departed Ukraine at midday, and landed at Eindhoven Air Base where the flights were met by Dutch King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima, Prime Minister Mark Rutte and other government officials. Hundreds of relatives were also there, Hekking said.

King Willem-Alexander clasped his wife's hand as the couple grimly watched teams carry the coffins slowly from the planes to a fleet of waiting hearses. Almost the only sound was of boots marching across the ground and flags flapping in the wind.

From the airport, they were to be driven under military police escort to the central city of Hilversum where forensic experts were waiting at a military barracks to carry out the painstaking task of identifying the remains. Rutte said many bodies could be identified quickly and returned to their loved ones, but some families may have to wait weeks for a positive identification.

"If I have to wait five months

for identification, I can do it," said Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand, whose son, Bryce, and his girlfriend, Daisy Oehlers, died in the crash. "Waiting while the bodies were in the field and in the train was a nightmare."

The bodies arrived back in the Netherlands — which is home to 193 of the victims — on a day of national mourning. Flags flew at half-staff on government buildings and family homes around this country of 17 million. Church bells rang out as the planes taxied to a standstill in Eindhoven.

Ukraine and Western nations are pressing the pro-Russia rebels who control the crash site to allow an unfettered investigation, something Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would use his influence to achieve. Though confident that a missile brought down the passenger jet, U.S. officials say Russia's role remains unclear.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said two fighter planes were shot down about 20 miles south of the site of the Malaysia Airlines wreckage. The separatist group Donetsk People's Republic said in a statement on its website that one of the pilots was killed and another was being sought by rebel fighters.

While the insurgents deny having missiles capable of hitting a jetliner at cruising altitude, rebel leader Alexander Borodai has said that separatist fighters do



PHIL NUHOIS/AP

A woman lights a candle amid flowers placed in honor of three Dutch citizens — a mother, her 17-year-old daughter and 13-year-old son — who were among the victims of the crash of Flight MH17, in Delft, Netherlands, on Wednesday.

have Strela-10M ground-to-air missiles which are capable of hitting targets up to an altitude of 11,500 feet.

In fighting on the ground Wednesday, rebel leader Pavel Gubarev wrote on his Facebook page that his men retreated Wednesday from the villages of Chervona Zorya and Kozhevnaya, on the Russian border about 30 miles from the scene of the crash. Gubarev said 30 rebels had been injured.

Britain's Air Accidents Investigation Branch said Wednesday that Dutch authorities had delivered the plane's voice and data recorders to the agency's base at Farnborough, southern England, where information will be downloaded. Experts will also check for signs of tampering.

The Dutch Safety Board, which is leading an international team of 24 investigators, said unhindered access to the crash site was critical.

Spokesman Tijbhe Jousra told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that around 25 investigators already are in Kiev analyzing information including photos, satellite images and radar information, but have not yet gained access to the crash site.

"We haven't yet gotten guarantees about security for our way of working. If we go we have to be able to move freely," he said. "We hope to be able to get to the site soon."



Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals T

WORLD

For civilians in Gaza Strip, nowhere to hide



ADEL HANA/AP

Fire and smoke rises from burning buildings hit by an Israeli airstrike in the Shajaiyeh neighborhood of Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

Warned by Israelis to flee, most are stuck

By WILLIAM BOOTH

The Washington Post

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Ordinary people in the Gaza Strip have been told by Israel they are being used as human shields by Hamas. Leaflets dropped from the sky and phone calls have warned them to flee the fighting immediately.

But many Gazans want to know: Flee where?

In the past two days, Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire have struck an evacuation shelter, cemeteries, a school, mosques and al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where four people were killed. The border crossings to Egypt and Israel are closed to Palestinians.

"You tell me where should we go," said Nael al-Safadi, a refrigerator repairman who at sunset Monday heard a teeth-rattling explosion and ran from his house to find a head lying on the sidewalk outside.

It might have belonged to one of the 10 members of the al-Kilani family who were killed. The family had just moved into a high-rise in central Gaza City when the top six floors were smashed by missiles.

Gaza is 25 miles long, almost the length of a marathon, and between 4 and 7 miles wide. Even before the current conflict, Gazans complained their home was a prison.

With Israeli troops now inside the border fence and the fight moving from the margins to populated areas, more than 40 percent of the territory has been declared a "closed military zone" by Israel, according to the United Nations. More than 118,000 people in Gaza have fled their homes to search for a place beyond the fighting, but many say they are running out of options. Even the graveyards are filling fast.

According to neighbors, the Kilanis had fled from Beit Lahiya, one of the first districts to be hit by Israeli bombardment, to Shajaiyeh, the scene of the bloodiest fighting, to an apartment they might have imagined was relatively safe in the city center. It was in a building called al-Salam, meaning "peace."

Israel says mosques, schools and hospitals are being used to fire rockets or cache weapons. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Hamas is "targeting our civilians and hiding behind its civilians. That's a double war crime."

On Tuesday, the U.N. agency that is sheltering evacuees said that for the second time it had found a stockpile of rockets stashed in one of its schools.

In the past two weeks, Israel has destroyed or severely damaged 472 homes, according to the United Nations. Israel says it has targeted Hamas militants inside homes or destroyed houses that were allegedly being used as militant bases.

"Does this happen anywhere else in the world?" asked Gaza Housing Minister Mahmoud al-Hassan. "You get a phone call. They tell you, 'Run for your lives!' Then they blow your house up?"

St. Porphyry's monastery is the heart of the small Greek Orthodox community in Gaza. The church dates to the Crusades in the 12th century. Since Sunday, more than 700 people have gathered there, huddled around the courtyard for what they hoped was refuge.

"I was just saying to my friend, 'Relax, this is the safest place in Gaza' when the first rockets hit," said Majid al-Jamal, 22, who works in a body shop and was struck on the head by a piece of flying brick Monday night.

Hopes for cease-fire as fight takes toll

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND PETER ENAY
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops battled Hamas militants on Wednesday near a southern Gaza Strip town as dozens of Palestinian families trapped by the fighting scrambled to flee the area.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, meanwhile, pressed ahead with efforts to end the conflict that has killed at least 650 Palestinians and 31 Israelis.

Kerry, who is on a Mideast trip to push for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, landed in Tel Aviv despite a Federal Aviation Administration ban following a Hamas rocket near the airport the day before.

Kerry was to meet Wednesday with Israel's prime minister, the Palestinian Authority's president and the United Nations chief in a daylong visit to Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Israel reported that two more of its soldiers have died in the conflict, bringing the military's death toll to 29, but did not elaborate on the circumstances of the latest casualties. Two Israeli civilians have also died in the 15 days of fighting.

A Palestinian health official said eight Hamas fighters died in the ferocious battle near Khan Younis, from where the Palestinian Red Crescent was trying to evacuate about 250. Khan Younis was under Israeli tank shelling and drone strikes since early Wednesday.

The Red Crescent said Hamas fighters in the area were deploying rocket-propelled grenades and light weapons, including machine guns, against the Israelis.

The Palestinians say Israel is randomly deploying a wide array of modern weaponry against Gaza's 1.7 million people, inflicting a heavy civilian death toll and



LEFTIS PITARAKIS/AP

A woman weeps after seeing the body of a loved one at the Shifa hospital morgue in Gaza City on Wednesday. Many Palestinians attempted to flee the fighting in the area.

destroying large amounts of property there. By Wednesday morning, the Palestinian death toll stood at 650, according to Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra, most of them civilians.

Israel says it began the Gaza operation to halt Hamas rocket fire on its territory and to destroy a network of tunnels leading from Gaza to Israel that are intended to allow Hamas militants to carry out attacks against Israelis.

As the Gaza death toll mounted, a 34-year-old Palestinian man was killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers near the West Bank City of Bethlehem, a potentially ominous development in an area that has so far

been relatively free of violence, despite the Gaza fighting.

Mahmoud Hamamreh was killed in stone-throwing clashes in the village of Husan early Wednesday, doctors said.

On Tuesday, U.S. and European airlines quickly canceled flights to Israel after a Hamas rocket hit near the Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, dealing a blow to Israel's lucrative tourist industry.

The conflict is also starting to strain the Israeli economy. Military and finance ministry officials have said that the first 10 days of the operation had direct costs of about 2 billion shekels — about \$585 million.

WORLD

Plane makes crash landing in Taiwan

Dozens feared dead in storm-related incident

The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A plane landing in a stormy weather crashed outside an airport on a small Taiwanese island late Wednesday, and the transport minister said 47 people were trapped and feared dead.

Taiwanese Transport Minister Yeh Kuang-shih was quoted by the government's Central News Agency as saying 11 other people were injured when the plane crashed and caught fire while making a second landing attempt.

Yeh was quoted as saying the flight, operated by Taiwan's TransAsia Airways, carried 58 passengers and crewmembers.

The news agency had earlier quoted a local fire brigade chief as saying that 51 people had been killed.

Flight GE222, a twin-engine turboprop ATR-72 aircraft, was heading from the southern port city of Kaohsiung to the island of Penghu in the Taiwan Strait, according to the Taiwanese news agency.

It crashed outside the airport in Kaohsiung, pictures from local media showed firefighters using flashlights to look at



WONG YAO-WEN/AP

Rescue workers survey the wreckage of TransAsia Airways flight GE222, which crashed while attempting to land in stormy weather on the Taiwanese island of Penghu late Wednesday.

wreckage in the darkness.

The flight left Kaohsiung at 4:53 p.m. for Magong on Penghu, according to the head of Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration, Jean Shen. At 7:06 p.m., after pilots said they would make

a second attempt at a landing, the plane lost contact with the tower.

Visibility as the plane approached was 1 mile, which met standards for landing, and two flights had landed before GE222 — one at 5:34 p.m. and the other at

6:57 p.m. — the agency reported.

It appeared that heavy rain reduced visibility and the plane was forced to pull up and make a second landing attempt, the report cited the county fire department as saying.

S. African rhino poacher gets 77 years in prison

JOHANNESBURG — A rhino poacher in South Africa has been sentenced to 77 years in prison in one of the heaviest penalties aimed at curbing poachers who target rhinos for their horns, which fetch a high price on the illegal market in parts of Asia.

The sentencing of Mandla Chauke, a South African who was arrested in Kruger National Park in 2011, shows that South African courts are starting to realize the negative impact that poaching has not only on wildlife but also on an economy heavily dependent on tourism, South Africa's national parks service said Wednesday.

Kruger park has lost 370 rhinos to poachers this year.

Typhoon weakens after hitting southeast China

BEIJING — Typhoon Matmo churned ashore in southeastern China on Wednesday and was downgraded to a tropical storm, while the death toll from last week's more powerful Typhoon Rammasun rose further.

After passing across Taiwan overnight Tuesday, Matmo made landfall in China's heavily populated province of Fujian. The country's weather agency said it had gusts of 67 miles per hour and was moving at 12 mph.

The typhoon weakened after dumping heavy rain on Taiwan, where it injured five people and knocked out power to 31,505 homes, according to the island's Central News Agency.

Chinese city gripped by bubonic plague fears

BEIJING — Parts of a northern Chinese city have been quarantined after state media said a man there died of bubonic plague.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that 151 people were under observation in the city of Yumen in Gansu province after authorities determined they had come in contact with a man who died of the plague July 16.

Investigators believe the man contracted the bacterial infection after contact with a marmot, Xinhua said.

Syrian insurgents seize towns from rebels

ISTANBUL — Fighters from the Nusra Front, al-Qaida's official affiliate in Syria, on Tuesday seized three strategic towns on the border with Turkey in a major blow to U.S.-backed moderate rebels.

Nusra's seizure of Izmarin, Salkin and Harem in Syria's Idlib province, came on the day after the group seized Darkoush, another border town, from the Syrian Revolutionary Front.

The move appears to be part of an effort by Nusra to add new area to what it has called its emirate in northern Syria, a designation it made in response to the declaration last month of an Islamic caliphate in Iraq and Syria by its arch-rival, the Islamic State. Since the Islamic State's designation of its caliphate, Nusra has lost territory to the Islamic State. Many of Nusra's commanders also have defected to the Islamic State.

From wire reports

Bombing rocks Iraq on eve of leadership vote

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament convened to vote for a new president on Wednesday, a day after the Islamic State extremist group claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Baghdad the night before that killed 31 people, mainly civilians.

The bomber had rammed his explosives-packed car into a checkpoint near a revered Shiite shrine in the heart of the capital late Tuesday as worshippers awaited security checks before visiting the site during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Another 58 people were wounded in the attack, which took place in the central Kazimiyyah district.

Police officials confirmed the toll, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

In a statement posted online late Tuesday, the Sunni Islamic State, which seized vast swaths of northern and western Iraq last month, claimed the attack and said it was "in response to the hostility of the (Shiite-led) government" of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his "criminal militias, who spare no effort in fighting Islam and Muslims."

Lawmakers have struggled to agree on a new government following April elections — in which al-Maliki's bloc secured the most seats. After several delays, lawmakers elected a moderate Sunni as parliament speaker on July 15, the first step in the process.

The next step is to replace President Jalal Talabani, whose term is set to expire. At least 95 candidates are in the running. Shiite lawmakers on Wednesday told state television on Wednesday.



GREGORIO BORRIDA/AP

Concordia making final voyage

After more than two years since it slammed into a reef along the coastline of Isola del Giglio, Italy, the Costa Concordia cruise liner began its last journey Wednesday to the Italian port of Genoa, where it will be scrapped. The incident killed 32 people. The ship has been stuck in Giglio's port, where it ended up on its side in pristine Mediterranean waters after being gashed by a reef it struck when its captain steered too close to the island.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



MATT BORN, THE (WILMINGTON, N.C.) STAR-NEWS/AP

Enjoying the surf for the first time

Haynes Harvey, 6, of Charlotte, N.C., rides a wave during Indo Jax Surf Charities' 6th annual surf camp for the visually impaired at Wrightsville Beach in Wilmington, N.C., last week. It was the first time surfing for Haynes, who was one of more than 30 kids participating in the weekend camp.

Evangelical group sets sights on secular city

OR PORTLAND — The arrival last week of an evangelical Christian group in heavily secular Portland has raised the ire of some residents.

The Child Evangelism Fellowship is hosting child-oriented gatherings called Good News Clubs throughout the city this week. The organizers hope to bring in children between the ages of 5 and 12.

Opponents of the group say it presents a fundamentalist view of Christianity that should be rejected. They took out a full-page ad in a local newspaper to oppose the outreach.

CEP Vice President Moises Esteves said the group is trying to engage with a younger audience that may not have heard its message. He said opponents are part of an atheist plan to dismantle Christian outreach.

Woman says rings on balloons belong to her

AL BROOKWOOD — A mystery involving wedding rings and a pair of balloons has apparently been solved.

A teenager in the northwest Alabama town of Winfield found a pair of rings attached to two deflated balloons that landed in his yard on July 6.

Now, a Tuscaloosa County woman says the rings are hers.

Caley Burkett told WBRC-TV that she wanted to get rid of the rings from a failed marriage. So she and her fiancé attached the rings to balloons and released them from their home in Brookwood.

The rings were found about 75 miles away and became the subject of news stories, prompting Burkett to come forward.

THE CENSUS

\$44

Burkett said she never expected to hear anything about the rings again, and she doesn't want them back.

Man convicted in case of 'leftover' marijuana

PA RIDGWAY — A northwestern Pennsylvania man was convicted of possessing 5 pounds of marijuana and at least 10 live marijuana plants that he claimed were merely "leftovers" from a police raid on his home two years earlier.

A sentencing date has not been set for Edward Pisani, 59, of Johnstown. Pisani was sentenced to one to two years in state prison after he was convicted of possessing hundreds of marijuana plants at his home in 2010.

Police searched Pisani's home again in September 2012 and allegedly found pounds of pot in trash bags and more live plants.

Pisani has claimed the drugs found in 2012 were leftovers, but police said they were evidence that he continued to grow and possess marijuana.

Lightning kills 45 head of cattle under trees

MT DARBY — A bolt of lightning killed 45 head of cattle on a ranch near Darby.

Rancher Jean Taylor told the Ravalli Republic that the cows, calves and a prize bull were

The amount of a ticket issued to a New Hampshire woman who called police after stopping on a median to help two stranded ducklings. Hallie Bibeau, 33, of Newfields, said she had to slam on her brakes to avoid hitting the ducklings. She said their mother and several of the ducklings were hit by a car and the mother died. A state trooper issued Bibeau the ticket, saying median stops are for emergencies, and they

didn't consider this to be one.

crowded under some small crabapple trees on July 14 when the lightning struck.

Taylor said the clap of thunder awakened her at 10:28 p.m.

Taylor said the family spent years building their herd of Black Angus cattle, and now they have only eight to 10 cows left.

Area ranchers helped the family dispose of the dead animals.

Traps set for large exotic snake in lake

NJ JEFFERSON — Traps have been set for a large exotic snake that animal control officers and a private reptile expert have been hunting for in New Jersey's Lake Hopatcong.

Local animal control officers placed traps in the lake in northwest New Jersey last week.

State Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Larry Ragonese says there haven't been any confirmed sightings of the snake. It has been reported to be either a boa constrictor or anaconda.

Ragonese said the DEP's search isn't connected to the private search led by Gerald Andrejak, a reptile expert who said last week that he cornered a 16-foot anaconda before it escaped by slithering between his legs.

Protecting moose by regulating fences?

AK ANCHORAGE — Municipal officials in

Alaska's largest city are considering outlawing gothic-style metal fences after five moose were impaled in recent years.

The Alaska Dispatch News reported that the Anchorage Assembly will conduct a public hearing Aug. 5 to consider regulating metal palisade fences with spiked pointed tips.

The fences stand between 4 and 6 feet and are usually found around private residences for both security and aesthetic reasons.

State wildlife biologists say moose get caught up or impaled by the tips when they try to jump over them.

The proposal would outlaw such fences shorter than 9 feet unless the tips are removed or the spikes capped.

More skulls turned in to county authorities

WA SEATTLE — The King County medical examiner's office said the mysterious donation of three skulls at a Bellevue Goodwill bin has prompted three other people to turn over human bones.

The county's forensic anthropologist, Kathy Taylor, said one set of bones is bleached and wired together for clinical or educational purposes. The other two are Native American bones. They are not considered part of a criminal case.

The Seattle Times reported that the office and a state agency will try to locate family members.

Otherwise, clinical bones may be offered to universities.

Remains of Native Americans must be returned to their tribes.

The donor of the three Goodwill skulls that were dropped off last month has not been found. Two are clinical skulls and the third is the skull of a Native American child.

Police volunteer resigns after bicyclist jokes

CA SANTA PAULA — Santa Paula police officials have accepted the resignation of a volunteer reserve officer seen in a YouTube video joking about running over bicyclists.

The Ventura County Star reported that Laura Weintraub submitted her resignation letter Sunday. Police Chief Steve McLean said Weintraub did the right thing in stepping down, saying she would not be able to function as a police officer in the community after the video came to light.

The newspaper said the video shows Weintraub in the passenger seat of a vehicle joking about bicyclists as the car passes them by. She also jokes about running them over.

The video ends with an electronically altered image of a car striking bicyclists. A caption reads, "Like you've never thought about it..."

Weintraub was placed on administrative leave Friday.

From wire reports

FACES



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

"Downton Abbey" stars Laura Carmichael (left), Allen Leech, Michelle Dockery and Joanne Froggatt share the stage during the panel for the TV series at the PBS 2014 Summer Television Critics Association in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Tuesday. The Emmy-nominated show resumes its run in the U.S. on Jan. 4.

Actors: Love not a possibility for 'Downton Abbey' in-laws

The Associated Press

Michelle Dockery and Allen Leech of "Downton Abbey" say Cupid's arrow is not headed for their characters.

While talking to a TV Critics' panel Tuesday, the actors said they find it very funny some fans are hoping for a romantic pairing for in-laws Lady Mary Crawley and Tom Branson.

Both characters are widowed and have become confidantes in their grief.

"Their friendship has really grown," said Dockery, who reminded that at one point her aristocratic TV alter ego couldn't fathom the idea of having a

chauffeur marrying her sister.

In season five of the British drama, premiering Jan. 4 on PBS, that bond will strengthen as they work to preserve their country estate.

"They're after the same thing for Downton. Sustainability," said Leech. "You definitely get the idea they get together on a united front with the idea of making sure Downton is going to be around."

It's not all business though, says Dockery, who says they're also "both looking for love."

"But not with each other," Leech quipped.

'They're after the same thing for Downton. Sustainability. You definitely get the idea they get together on a united front with the idea of making sure Downton is going to be around.'

Allen Leech
star of "Downton Abbey"

Spike Lee helps a film student face his past

The Associated Press

When a film student decided to revisit his criminal teenage past, he found a powerful ally in filmmaker Spike Lee.

Lee was among Darius Clark Monroe's professors at New York University's film school when Monroe revealed to him that he had committed a bank robbery when he was 16 and gone to prison. Monroe wanted to examine his actions and how they affected his family and the victims.

Lee didn't lend his support lightly to the project.

"I think of my name very highly and I would not attach my name to any film if I did not think it was up to my high standards," Lee told a TV critics' meeting Tuesday.

The result, seven years in the making, is "Evolution of a Criminal," which will air in January as part of PBS' "Independent Lens" series.

Monroe, 33, said the Houston robbery



Lee

arose out of his misguided desire to help his financially struggling family any way he could.

He'd been an honor student and a good son until then, he and his mother said during a panel about the film produced by Lee.

What lessons might others draw from the project? The importance of getting an education to help overcome the stigma of a prison record was one cited by Monroe. Another, which he termed universal, "You cannot allow one choice to ruin the rest of your life."

Novelist thanks Colbert Nation for making 'California' a hit

By CAROLYN KELLOGG
Los Angeles Times

Edan Lepucki appeared on "The Colbert Report" on Tuesday to talk about her debut novel, "California," and thank Colbert and his fans for getting it onto best-seller lists.

"Thank you Colbert Nation for buying my book and reading it," she said. "I'm so, so incredibly grateful to be on this show and to have my book talked about. I just really appreciate it. So thank you."

Lepucki's book has become a battering ram in Lepucki's battle against Amazon.

"For the past six weeks we in the Colbert Nation have been at war with Amazon," Colbert explained. "Oh, we're going to wipe the smirk right off that box's face."

The online retailer has been playing hardball in its negotiations with Hachette, Colbert's — and Lepucki's — publisher. Amazon has imposed artificial delays on existing Hachette books, made them difficult to find on its site and impossible to pre-order.



When Lepucki appeared Tuesday, she paid it forward by recommending another debut novelist's upcoming Hachette book: "Sweetness #9" by Stephan Lirick Clark.

To illustrate their tactics to a wide audience, Colbert selected a single upcoming Hachette book — Lepucki's "California" — and asked viewers to pre-order it from Powell's, an independent bookseller. It debuted on the New York Times best-seller list at No. 3.

Swift, Azalea, Coldplay set for iHeartRadio festival

Taylor Swift, Coldplay and One Direction are part of the star-studded lineup for this year's iHeartRadio Music Festival.

Clear Channel announced Wednesday that Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj, Iggy Azalea and Ed Sheeran will also perform at the festival, to be held Sept. 19 and 20 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. Tickets go on sale Saturday.

Other performers include Lorde, Usher, Motley Crue, Zac Brown Band, Paramore, Eric Church and Calvin Harris.

The festival, now in its fourth year, will broadcast live on Clear Channel radio stations.



WADE PAYNE, INVISION/AP

Swift (above), Coldplay and One Direction are among the acts scheduled for this year's iHeartRadio Music Festival.

Michael Jackson's hometown to name school for him

Plans are in the works to name a school after Michael Jackson in the late pop star's Indiana hometown.

The Gary Community School Board in Indiana approved Tuesday a memorandum of understanding with Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson. The agreement that Jackson signed last month says the district "seeks to honor Michael Jackson and to inspire children to excel in the arts and education."

District superintendent Cheryl Pruitt said she's working with the Jackson family on which school to rename.

"A close relationship with the Jackson family to improve the quality of programs for the Gary Community School Corp. can mean tremendous gains for the school district and the city as a whole," she told the Post-Tribune.

Other news

■ Filmmaker Michael Moore's divorce from Kathleen Glynn has been finalized, ending their two-decade-long marriage. Moore filed a divorce complaint on June 17 in Michigan's Antrim County, where the couple has a home.

■ British singer Adele's toddler son has won a five-figure sum in damages after paparazzi photographed private family moments. Adele's lawyer Jenny Affia said Wednesday that the performer was adamant her son must never become "public property." The damages from the settlement with photo agency Corbis Images UK will be held in a trust for Angelo, who turns 2 in October, and the agency agreed not to use the photos again.

■ A British coroner has concluded that model and TV personality Peaches Geldof died from a heroin overdose. Coroner Roger Hatch said Wednesday that Geldof, 25, who died April 7, had taken a fatal dose after a period of trying to come off the drug.

■ Beyonce and Jay Z's HBO concert special will debut Sept. 20. The special will be taped during their shows in Paris on Sept. 12 and 13 at Stade de France and will feature more than 40 songs.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Hackers break into StubHub accounts

Ticket reseller says thieves obtained customers' login info from other sources

By JENNIFER PELTZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cyberthieves got into more than 1,000 StubHub customers' accounts and fraudulently bought tickets for events through the online ticket reseller, a law enforcement official and the company said.

Arrests were expected in a case that sprawled across international borders, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss it ahead of arrests being announced and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. was expected to hold a news conference Wednesday with London and Royal Canadian Mounted Police officials. A spokeswoman for Vance's office declined to comment Tuesday night on the case, which comes amid growing concern about data

thieves targeting retailers and other consumer giants.

StubHub, which is based in San Francisco, said the thieves didn't break through its security — rather, they got account-holders' login and password information from data breaches at other websites and retailers or from key-loggers or other malware on the customers' computers, spokesman Glenn Lehman said.

The company detected the unauthorized transactions last year, contacted authorities and gave the affected customers refunds and help changing their passwords, he said.

It's unclear whether the digital prowlers then exploited their access to scoop up more information from the compromised accounts.

The company and the law enforcement official Tuesday didn't provide further details. StubHub said,

StubHub, owned by eBay Inc., is the leading digital marketplace for reselling concert, sports, theater and other tickets, offering brokers and fans a way "to buy or sell their tickets in a safe, convenient and highly reliable environment," as its website pledges.

In the last year, major companies such as Target, LinkedIn, eBay and Neiman Marcus have been hacked. Target, the nation's second-largest discounter, acknowledged in December that data connected to about 40 million credit and debit card accounts was stolen as part of a breach that began over the Thanksgiving weekend. Even Goodwill Industries Inc. found itself announcing last month that shoppers' payment card data might have been stolen.

Since many people use the same passwords at multiple re-

tailers, hackers who get hold of a password for one site often try it at another, Lehman said.

Authorities generally advise consumers to protect against possible identity theft from such breaches by keeping close watch on their bank statements and using credit card monitoring services, among other tips.

MARKET WATCH	
July 22, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	61.81
	17,113.54
Nasdaq composite	31.32
	4,456.02
Standard & Poor's 500	9.90
	1,983.53
Russell 2000	9.49
	1,156.15

EXCHANGE RATES	
Military rates	
Euro costs (July 24)	\$1.3812
Dollar buys (July 24)	€0.7240
British pound (July 24)	\$1.175
Japanese yen (July 24)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 24)	₩996.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.1044
Canada (dollar)	1.0733
China (Yuan)	6.1191
Israel (Shekel)	3.6426
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3469/0.7424
Hong Kong (dollar)	1.7506
Hungary (Forint)	227.94
India (Rupee)	63.7500
Japan (Yen)	101.261
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2821
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2374
South Korea (Won)	1,024.69
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9019
Thailand (Baht)	31.82
Turkey (Lira)	2.0910
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., exchange rates for currencies in Germany, which with your local military banking facility, commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies one dollar except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures											
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	100	75	Lo	Chatanooga	86	67	Rain	Fort Wayne	77	54	Clr
Akron, Ohio	100	75	Lo	Chicago	90	62	Clr	Fresno	99	70	Clr
Albany, N.Y.	77	55	Clr	Cincinnati	77	56	Clr	Goodland	100	67	PCldy
Albuquerque	93	69	PCldy	Cleveland	74	56	PCldy	Grand Junction	76	56	Clr
Allentown, Pa.	81	59	Clr	Colorado Springs	93	61	Clr	Grand Rapids	76	56	Clr
Amarillo	98	69	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	94	72	PCldy	Great Falls	75	52	Clr
Anchorage	65	53	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	89	73	Rain	Green Bay	77	57	Clr
Asheville	79	62	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	75	53	PCldy	Harrisburg, N.C.	87	67	Rain
Atlanta	87	71	Rain	Concord, N.H.	77	56	Clr	Hartford	78	60	Clr
Atlantic City	85	66	Rain	Corpus Christi	95	75	Clr	Helena	78	52	Clr
Austin	88	74	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	100	79	Clr	Honolulu	88	77	Clr
Baltimore	84	62	Rain	Dayton	76	54	Clr	Houston	98	76	PCldy
Baton Rouge	94	73	Clr	Daytona Beach	92	76	PCldy	Huntsville	84	66	Rain
Bilings	99	55	Clr	Denver	97	65	Clr	Indianapolis	78	57	Clr
Birmingham	86	70	Rain	Des Moines	79	64	PCldy	Jacksonville	91	68	Clr
Bismarck	85	62	PCldy	Detroit	76	58	PCldy	Janeau	60	52	Clr
Boise	80	52	Clr	Duluth	76	58	PCldy	Kansas City	83	70	PCldy
Boston	74	63	Rain	El Paso	100	78	Clr	Key West	91	82	Clr
Boulder	91	63	Clr	Elkins	73	55	Clr	Knoxville	84	65	Rain
Brownsville	96	78	Clr	Erie	72	57	PCldy	Lake Charles	91	76	Clr
Buffalo	75	56	PCldy	Eugene	80	52	Clr	Lansing	76	56	Clr
Burlington	77	60	PCldy	Evansville	80	58	PCldy	Las Vegas	109	86	Clr
Caribou, Maine	75	52	Clr	Fairbanks	61	49	Rain	Las Vegas	109	86	Clr
Charleston, S.C.	93	53	Clr	Fargo	81	64	Clr	Lincoln	79	61	PCldy
Charleston, W.Va.	94	74	Clr	Flagstaff	83	56	Clr	Little Rock	88	67	PCldy
Charlotte, N.C.	87	69	Rain	Fort Smith	91	70	Clr	Los Angeles	90	69	Clr
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Pocatello	82	48	Clr	Sioux City	81	67	Clr	Portland, Maine	74	56	Clr
Portland, Ore.	74	57	PCldy	Sioux Falls	79	65	Rain	Pueblo	97	60	PCldy
Providence	76	63	Rain	South Bend	76	54	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Rapid City	88	63	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	78	58	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Rochester	74	55	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	85	64	PCldy	Reno	88	61	Clr
Rockford	76	57	PCldy	Tampa	91	78	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Rosemead	88	68	Rain	Toledo	80	63	PCldy	Reno	88	61	Clr
Sacramento	95	64	Clr	Topeka	87	72	PCldy	Reno	88	61	Clr
St. Louis	82	64	Clr	Tucson	104	80	PCldy	Reno	88	61	Clr
St. Petersburg	90	80	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
St. Thomas	90	81	PCldy	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Salt Lake City	94	65	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
San Antonio	100	73	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
San Diego	81	71	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
San Francisco	79	60	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
San Jose	84	61	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Santa Fe	90	60	PCldy	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
St. Marie	72	52	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Savannah	95	74	PCldy	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Seattle	68	56	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr
Shreveport	95	72	Clr	Tulsa	93	75	Clr	Reno	88	61	Clr

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue, 117, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Tue, 35, Craig, Colo.

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Childhood obesity means fewer recruits

By CHARLES "SKIP" BOWEN
AND VINCENT W. PATTON III

We retired four and 12 years ago, respectively, after a combined 64 years of active-duty service. Since retirement, both of us enjoy the great privilege of working closely with several military service organizations that brings us in regular contact with many of the great men and women currently serving in today's U.S. armed forces.

Although we refrain from making comparisons, we strongly believe that the "all-volunteer" post-9/11 U.S. military services have evolved into the greatest fighting force the world has ever seen. We must maintain our force readiness in order for America to remain strong. However, to maintain that readiness, we are challenged as we look to our future pool of candidates for the military.

Department of Defense statistics show that 71 percent of 17-to-24-year-olds in the U.S. are not eligible for recruitment primarily because they are too overweight, poorly educated, or have a serious criminal record. This is a national security issue.

Surveys done for the Army's Accessions Command, which carries the responsibility for recruiting and initial training of Army recruits, and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that more than 1 in 5 young Americans are too heavy to join the military. As retired senior enlisted leaders and members of the nonprofit organization Mission: Readiness, we have seen firsthand the challenges that added costs and missed training gains can have on the service. All told, the military currently spends more than \$1 billion per year on weight-related diseases.

Fortunately, there are ways to reverse these disturbing trends. We propose three key steps that would make a positive differ-

The first time a young person runs a mile in this country should not be when he shows up at recruit training.

ence for America's youth and preserve our long-term national security in the process.

Step One: Support healthier eating habits in our nation's schools.

Extra calories from snacks and sugary drinks contribute to obesity and the rise of related chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Thirty-three percent of U.S. children and adolescents are on the way to becoming overweight or obese, and 25 percent of children ages 5 to 10 exhibit early warning signs for heart disease. Students consume almost 400 billion junk food calories at school per year, equal to almost 2 billion candy bars and more than the weight of the aircraft carrier Midway. One straightforward way to address this problem is to encourage schools to offer healthy alternatives to junk food in school. We both grew up in diverse places in some pretty diverse schools and while we may not have always liked the lunches the public school system provided, we remember the options as being relatively healthy. What is consumed at school is only a small part of the problem, but it is a part that our tax dollars are supplementing. We need to encourage healthier eating habits among America's youth in any way we can.

Step Two: Get kids to be more active.

Maintaining a healthy weight requires exercise in addition to a proper diet. As we support alternatives to unhealthy foods in our schools, we should also work to get more opportunities for physical activity back in. The first time a young person runs a mile in this country should not be when he shows up at recruit training.

Supporting physical activity has to become a priority and it has to start young. A

nation of couch potatoes cannot defend the homeland and cannot fight and win wars.

Step Three: Support making summer breaks healthier for youth in our area.

Many students gain weight three times faster during the summer months than during the school year, according to a study by Ohio State University. That is not surprising since summer days are often spent playing video games, snacking on junk food and drinking sugar-sweetened beverages instead of engaging in outdoor activities and healthy eating. Kids need support to stay mentally and physically fit, and expanded opportunities are needed for low-income children to participate in summer camps and learning activities that keep mind and bodies in motion while connecting to learning during the school year.

For America to remain strong, we need a strong military. The next generation of Americans must have the physical ability to step up and take our places. Obesity in our youth is a growing problem for our society, it steals our children's health and the negative impacts on their lives are mounting. Further, obesity is having a negative and growing impact on the readiness of our nation's military. This is not just a societal issue. This is not just a recruitment issue. It is a national security issue.

Charles "Skip" Bowen was the 10th master chief petty officer and was the 10th master chief petty officer of government relations for Bollinger Shipyards. Vincent W. Patton III was the eighth master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard. He is executive director of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational assistance for people engaged in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

VA nominee gets cushy treatment from senators

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER

The Washington Post

At Robert McDonald's Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday, lawmakers called the job of heading the "Department of Veterans Affairs" and "bankrupt" Department of Veterans Affairs all but impossible. The problems are so calcified, said Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, that every time a scandal is exposed, "it's like deja vu, there we go again."

Yet nobody asked McDonald, who is expected to be voted in Wednesday, a particularly bad question: "What are you going to do about it?"

Such as, how can you bring the accountability we all want to see to a system in which it's so much harder to fire people than it is at Procter & Gamble, the company McDonald ran?

At a recent House hearing, whistleblowers Joe Mathews, who was chief of psychiatry at a VA hospital in St. Louis before he reported problems with record-keeping and patient care there, told the panel that "anyone involved in patient care enjoys all most lifetime tenure" in VA.

He and three other whistleblowers recounted how they'd been suspended and reassigned for reporting problems, while those who'd caused those problems, and had retaliated against the whistleblowers, remain in their jobs.

Maybe, as Veterans Affairs' Committee Chairman Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., suggested jokingly, the senators didn't want to say anything to scare McDonald, a former Army captain who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, into run-

ning out of the hearing room.

Or maybe the lawyers on the panel were sticking to the courtroom wisdom that you should never ask a witness a question to which you don't know the answer.

In any case, they instead pelted McDonald with flowers. "You've run a great company," said Sen. John Rockefeller, D-W.Va., "I have no idea what you could do to have fear of what we will do to support you."

"There's no doubt in my mind he has the heart and the work ethic and the empathy" to do the job, said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

But do all those fine qualities assure that McDonald, No. 14 on the list of the most corrupt executives in the country, as that, Brown also praised the previous secretary, Eric Shinseki, who resigned amid reports of record manipulation and falsification and such long wait times that some veterans died waiting for care, though it's not clear the delays caused their deaths.

Senators did run down the list of all the problems McDonald was expected to take on, including widespread mismanagement, fraud, a suicide epidemic, a shortage of doctors and nurses, technology that's still from another century despite vast outlays of cash, and a huge backlog of claims.

A couple of Republicans on the panel said they didn't think much money was the answer, though Sierra Gibson, acting VA secretary, recently told them the department needs \$17.6 billion immediately. And then, sure enough, a couple of Democrats said that funding was, however, a necessary starting place. "I'm not going to sit here and say you don't need more money," said Sen. Mazie Hironaka, D-Hawaii.

In a navy pinstriped suit and ready

smile, McDonald, who was introduced by Brown and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, the other senator from his home state, nodded frequently as the senators addressed him in the freezing-cold Dirksen Building on a 90-degree day.

He certainly sounded like a CEO, using the word "incentivize" and speaking of the need to "flow resources across the boundary" between the Department of Defense and VA.

He won't compromise the value of taking the "hard right over the easy wrong" that he learned at West Point, McDonald said, and promised to restore trust by, for starters, getting in some walking lines like a veteran rather than as a secretary traveling with an entourage.

He also said he'd be handing out his cellphone number to all members of the congressional committees overseeing VA — and drew laughs when he said he expected to get theirs in return.

Though he obviously didn't have to convince anyone on a panel of people who can't wait for him to start, he said, "I desperately want this job, because I think I can make a difference."

Then he repeated the question all military men and women are trained to ask themselves: "If not me, who?"

"What we've got to do is figure out who wasn't" true to the values of VA, he said. And force them out, he implied. I stopped him as he was leaving to ask how he might do that, but he said, "I'm not taking questions today; I'm just saying it."

Melinda Henneberger writes about politics and culture for The Washington Post.

OPINION

Putin can't deny fingerprints. Now what?

By FRED KAPLAN
State

Apart from its tragic horror, the shoot-down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 has two strategic consequences. First, it reveals that the Russian military — and, therefore, President Vladimir Putin — is deeply involved in the separatists' fight against the Ukrainian government. Second, it transfigures that fight from a confined civil war to a clash impacting the whole continent, Europeans can no longer so easily ignore it or avoid holding Russia accountable.

The proof of Russian involvement lies in the weapon used to down the plane. The SA-11 radar-guided surface-to-air missile is not like the shoulder-mounted rockets that many rebels use to fire against low-flying aircraft worldwide. Rather, it's a complex system that requires three vehicles and about a dozen personnel, most of them specially trained as a team. The system's warning-radar detects an incoming plane, calculates its speed, range and altitude, and passes that information to the missile battery's "acquisition radar," which tracks the plane. When the plane is within ideal range, the missile is fired. Then, the "target-tracking radar" guides the missile to the target.

U.S. Air Force officer familiar with the SA-11 said, "There is no way that some guy who was a miner or truck driver before the war, can all of a sudden operate this system." It takes several weeks to learn how to use it, six months or so to get proficient. John Pike, a weapons specialist with GlobalSecurity.org, puts it this way: "If some separatists had started learning how to use the SA-11 late last year, by now they might be up to speed."

Since the conflict with separatists in eastern Ukraine started just this past spring, this raises the question: Are the people who shot down the Malaysian airliner eastern Russian separatists or are they Russian air-defense officers who trekked across the border to assist their ethnic brethren? Ei-

ther way, it's not the case that Putin simply encouraged the rebels to fight and supplied them with missiles, making him indirectly responsible for the shoot-down; it's that his officers are directly responsible, either by training the separatist shooters or by being the shooters themselves.

That doesn't mean, as some are walling, that Putin or the shooter is a "mass murderer" or a "war criminal." Nobody believes that the crew manning the SA-11 in eastern Ukraine meant to shoot down the Boeing 777. Whether because of human error, mechanical error or the "fog of war" in its manifold layers, these things happen when civilians wander into (or over) a battlefield, usually through no fault of their own.

However, precisely because of this risk, Putin bears the blame for the disaster, in that he created the setting that made it possible. He contrived the separatist rebellion, and he converted eastern Ukraine into the sort of battlefield where these things happen. That would be the case even if his men didn't then directly cause the shoot-down to happen.

In other words, from a policy angle, the significance of the downed aircraft is that it reveals Russia as not merely a supplier but a combatant in the side of the separatists — and thus in violation of Ukrainian sovereignty. To the extent that some European countries have hesitated to hold Russia accountable, through sanctions or assistance to Ukraine or other measures, this episode should rally them to boldness. Of course, just because they should doesn't mean that they will. Perhaps the biggest factor moved more than usual is the fact that 70 percent of the passengers killed onboard were Europeans.

Speaking before reporters and TV cameras this week, President Barack Obama denounced Russia for its role in the fighting but also offered Putin a diplomatic off ramp. "Russia's enormous influence over the separatists," Obama said. Putin should, therefore, compel them to stop resisting the international inspec-



tors at the crash site and, more broadly, to halt the fighting. A diplomatic solution "can still happen," he added. But if Russia maintains its present course, it will face further isolation.

Western European nations, especially Germany and France, are heavily dependent on Russia for gas and oil. But the Russian gas and oil industry — the mainstay of the country's economy — is heavily dependent on Western investment. And Western investors, whose eagerness has cooled since Putin's Crimea annexation, are likely to scramble toward the exits in the aftermath of the Malaysia Airlines shoot-down, even if formal sanctions remain less than crippling.

This episode does not mark a return to the Cold War, and in some ways, that's to Moscow's disadvantage. The Cold War was a global clash of systems: the communist East vs. the capitalist West. In the most deep-freeze moments of the Cold War — for instance, in 1983, after a Soviet air-defense fighter shot down Korean Air Lines Flight

7 and the U.S. responded with a near-cessation of diplomatic contact — Moscow still had its empire and its centrally controlled economy: what the rest of the world did was much less significant. Now Russia has no empire — no Soviet Union, no Warsaw Pact, no Comintern — and its economy is intertwined with global markets.

In short, in this conflict, Moscow has no sources of sanctuary, economic or otherwise, and a great deal to lose. Contrary to the image that he's cleverly managed to convey, Putin is far from a master grand strategist; his many missteps during the Ukraine crisis demonstrate as much. But he's not an idiot either. He seems to be a shrewd tactician, a clever calculator, who's prone to wager too much while bluffing. This time the bluff's being called. The question is whether he takes Obama's offer to fold — or whether he doubles down and comes out blazing.

Fred Kaplan is the author of "The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War" and "1959: The Year Everything Changed."

Prevent Putin from exploiting division among neighbors

By STEPHEN J. HADLEY

The shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 has focused the world's attention on Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. But the most basic questions are still unanswered: What is Russian President Vladimir Putin up to? How far will he go? And what should the United States do about it?

Putin ordered the invasion of Georgia in 2008, the annexation of Crimea in 2014, and now the destabilization of eastern Ukraine. In so doing, he has shredded the post-Cold War settlement in Europe embraced by all European nations (including Russia) after the collapse of communism and the end of the Soviet Union's domination of the continent, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, and the right of all states to choose their affiliations.

What does Putin want? He has a different vision for Europe. He seeks the restoration of Russian greatness through a Russian-dominated confederation of states (the "Eurasian Union"), along with associated trade and security organizations. He is shrewd, strategic and patient. He has Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia as members, with Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan waiting in the wings.

But Putin needs Ukraine to give his project economic and geopolitical heft. That

requires preventing Ukraine from joining the European Union and NATO. By annexing Crimea and provoking secessionists in eastern Ukraine, Putin accomplishes two things. He pressures Ukraine. And he creates the kind of territorial dispute with Russia that will make states loath to accept Ukraine as a member of NATO or the EU.

The objective of coordinated U.S. and EU sanctions should be to persuade Putin to withdraw Russian weapons and mercenaries from Ukraine and end cross-border support to the secessionists. The Ukrainian government can then start the autonomy talks with its eastern citizens that it wants to pursue — and that Russia says it seeks — but that the Russian presence and support for secessionists makes impossible. Such talks can pave the way for Ukraine to address its citizens in Crimea about their concerns and status. That dialogue must also be free from Russian coercion.

But are sanctions enough? No. Putin has been adept at exploiting division and disruption among Russia's neighbors to advance his goals. The U.S. needs to:

- Deny Russia targets of opportunity by eliminating or hardening Europe's vulnerabilities against Russian exploitation.
- Reassure NATO allies vulnerable by Russian pressure that NATO stands by its Article 5 guarantee of their security.

■ Deny further Russian action against Ukraine or any other state in violation of

the basic principles of the post-Cold War settlement.

■ Avoid the redivision of Europe that would follow the exclusion of Russia from Europe at variance with its historical and economic ties to its neighbors to its West.

Why this latter point? Putin's actions have been reprehensible. But the door must be left open to a Russia that returns to the post-Cold War consensus — either because of a change of heart by Putin (however unlikely) or because of efforts by those Russians committed to a more peaceful and democratic future.

How to achieve these objectives? The U.S. working with the EU needs a comprehensive strategy that takes these actions:

- Re-energizes the historic vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace as an alternative to Putin's vision of Russian domination of its neighbors and increasing authoritarianism at home.

- Completes the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership binding Europe and the U.S. in a relationship of economic growth and prosperity, leaving the door open to adding Turkey and, ultimately, a peaceful and democratic Russia.

- Develops a joint transatlantic energy strategy using liquid natural gas shipments from the United States, shale oil and shale gas produced in Europe, creative use of existing pipeline infrastructure and construction of new non-Russian-controlled

pipelines to reduce the EU's dependence on Russian oil and gas.

- Resumes the EU's "open door" policy of offering association agreements and, ultimately, membership to countries to the east that seek them with arrangements that do not require severing historical and economic ties to Russia.

- Recommits the United States to the security of Europe through additional military deployments and exercises.
- Revitalizes the NATO alliance through additional planning, exercises and military capabilities for the organization's core mission of European security and with an open door to states seeking membership who meet its criteria.

- Helps nations subject to Russian pressure to strengthen their capacity to defend their territories from either armed attack or subversion and destabilization, including by providing military, paramilitary and police training and equipment.

- Helps the Ukrainian people build an inclusive, democratic and honest government and market-based economy.

How far will Putin go? If history is any guide, he will push forward as long as he has success and does not meet serious resistance. To stop him requires all the elements of a comprehensive strategy.

Stephen J. Hadley was U.S. national security adviser from 2005 to 2009. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Mavs' Felton pleads guilty to gun charges

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dallas Mavericks point guard Raymond Felton pleaded guilty Wednesday in a New York gun case, taking a plea deal that involved admitting a felony but spares him jail.

Felton pleaded guilty to attempted criminal possession of a weapon and criminal possession of a firearm. He admitted he knowingly had a large-capacity ammunition magazine and a semi-automatic pistol without a license.

"Are those charges true?" Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Larry Stephen asked.

"Yes, sir," Felton said, later adding in a soft voice: "I apologize. I realize what I did was wrong."

He was immediately sentenced to 500 hours of community service and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine. Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Rebold said Felton will be allowed to do the service outside New York.

If he complies, the case will be closed without jail time or probation.

"At this point, Raymond is looking forward to starting the next chapter of his life and focusing on success in Dallas," his lawyer, James Walden, said after court.

The criminal case arose last winter, as Felton grappled with the breakup of his marriage and navigated a struggling season with the New York Knicks. He was traded to Dallas last month, two days after his plea plan was announced.

The team declined to comment.

About a week after Felton's law student wife filed for divorce, her attorney brought a loaded semi-automatic handgun to a police precinct and said it was Felton's and she wanted it out of the house, authorities said. Walden has said Felton never threatened anyone with the gun.

After police contacted Felton, he turned himself in shortly after a Mavericks-Knicks game at Madison Square Garden.

Felton was charged under a state law that bans many large-capacity ammunition magazines. Prosecutors said Felton's could hold about 20 rounds.

The NBA has said it is monitoring the case. The league usually waits until criminal cases against players are resolved before deciding whether to impose any fine or suspension. An NBA spokesman did not immediately respond to an inquiry Wednesday about Felton.

Source: Wiggins to sign deal with Cavaliers

CLEVELAND — Andrew Wiggins will sign his rookie contract with the Cavaliers. It's still not clear if he'll play for them.

A person familiar with the negotiations says the Cavs will sign the No. 1 overall pick to his deal, an agreement that would prevent any potential trade involving the star forward from being completed for 30 days.



Stage winner Rafal Majka, center, Joaquim Rodriguez, left, and Luxembourg's Frank Schleck, right, climb towards Saint-Lary during the 17th stage of the Tour de France on Wednesday.

LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

The Minnesota Timberwolves and Cavaliers have been discussing a potential deal that would send All-Star forward Kevin Love to the Cavaliers for Wiggins, Anthony Bennett and other pieces. The person familiar with the talks says Wiggins will sign with Cleveland as early as Wednesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the team is not commenting on its plans.

The Cavs and Timberwolves have had ongoing discussions about a trade for Love since before Cleveland selected Wiggins first in May. The Timberwolves have always insisted that Wiggins be involved in any package, a stipulation the Cavaliers initially resisted.

To help in their pursuit of Love, the Cavs traded guard Carrick Felix to Utah on Tuesday for three players with non-guaranteed contracts.

Cleveland acquired guard John Lucas III and forwards Malcolm Thomas and Erik Murphy from the Jazz in exchange for Felix, a second-round draft pick and cash considerations.

The trade will allow the Cavs to clear \$3.3 million in salary cap space, room to potentially sign Love or other players.

Mavericks void Lewis contract over knee

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks have voided the contract of Rashard Lewis because the free agent forward needs surgery on his right knee.

President of basketball operations Donnie Nelson said Wednesday the team discovered the need for surgery during a physical. Lewis had signed a one-year deal for the veteran minimum of \$1.4 million.

The 34-year-old Lewis spent the past two seasons mostly coming off the bench in Miami. He averaged 4.5 points last season. He was expected to back up Dirk Nowitzki at power forward.

Lewis has played 16 seasons since skipping college to enter the draft and going 32nd overall

to Seattle in 1998. He has career averages of 14.9 points and 5.2 rebounds.

Rivers testifies he'll quit if Sterling stays

LOS ANGELES — Coach Doc Rivers has said he'll resign from the Los Angeles Clippers if Donald Sterling remains the owner, the interim CEO testified, saying such a move would be a "disaster" for the franchise.

"If Mr. Sterling continues as owner, he does not want to continue as coach," Richard Parsons said in court on Tuesday, recounting recent conversations with Rivers.

His testimony was a rare foray into the basketball side of the Clippers at a probate-court trial that has focused on the narrow question of whether Sterling's wife, Shelly, can sell the team for \$2 billion to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer as the NBA looks to force Donald Sterling from the league over racist statements.

Shelly Sterling was scheduled to return to the stand on Wednesday as the final witness, with the two sides returning for closing arguments next week.

The contract is for two years and about \$2.5 million. Rush will hold the option in the second year of the deal.

The Chicago Bulls say they have signed Doug McDermott, their first-round draft pick and last season's college player of the year.

Terms of the deal involving the 6-foot-8 forward from Creighton weren't released.

The Bulls acquired 22-year-old McDermott after Denver drafted him with the 11th overall pick, then quickly traded him to Chicago.

LeBron James has sent cupcakes to neighbors of his home in Akron to apologize for the ruckus caused by the announcement of his return to the Cleveland Cava-

liers two weeks ago.

Cavaliers fans and journalists converged on the NBA star's home to await his July 11 decision on whether he would come back to northeast Ohio or stay with the Miami Heat. A commotion ensued, and police were called to direct traffic.

To make amends, the LeBron James Family Foundation sent a note of apology accompanied by a dozen cupcakes to neighbors on Tuesday, according to multiple media outlets.

Colombia's Rodriguez signs with Real Madrid

MADRID — A week after finishing the World Cup as the tournament's top scorer with six goals, Colombia forward James Rodriguez signed a six-year deal with Real Madrid on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old Rodriguez, who helped Colombia reach the quarterfinals in Brazil, passed a medical examination at the Sanitas Clinic in the northern suburb of La Moraleja.

"I hope to win many titles here, Hala Madrid," Rodriguez said, invoking the club's chant.

Spanish sports newspapers Marca and AS both reported that Madrid had agreed to pay French club Monaco \$108 million for Rodriguez. He is expected to join the squad on Aug. 1.

Rodriguez's goal against Uruguay in the second round of the World Cup, when he chested the ball down and then volleyed it in, was voted the best goal of the tournament.

"I think they (Madrid) were interested in me before my goal against Uruguay," Rodriguez said. "But by scoring that goal I enhanced my chances of coming here."

Loew staying on as coach for Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany — World Cup winner Joachim Loew will remain the Germany coach through the 2016 European Championship in France.

There was speculation Loew

might step down after Germany lifted its fourth World Cup title with a 1-0 victory over Argentina in the final in Rio de Janeiro 10 days ago, although Loew's contract was extended well before the tournament.

"At the moment, I can imagine nothing more beautiful than to continue working with this team, to guide it to the European Championship in France, to develop the team and the individual players further," Loew said in an interview published on Wednesday on the German Football Federation (DFB) website.

"I am as motivated as I was on the first day with DFB. We celebrated a gigantic success in Brazil but there are other goals that we want to achieve. The World Cup 2014 was a highlight for all, but it was not a conclusion."

Majka wins Tour stage; Nibali extends lead

PLA D'ADET, France — Poland's Rafal Majka captured his second stage victory at the Tour de France on Wednesday, winning Stage 17 with a late breakaway on the last of four tough climbs in the Pyrenees.

Vincenzo Nibali of Italy trailed by about a minute, and gained more seconds on his main rivals, as he retained the leader's yellow jersey that he's worn for all but two stages this year.

Majka, who cheekily winked to a French TV camera with about a kilometer left, tapped his chest, thrust his arms skyward and shouted in joy after giving his Tinkoff Saxo-Bank squad its second straight stage victory after Tuesday's win by Australian Michael Rogers.

Italy's Giovanni Visconti, whose solo breakaway with about nine kilometers left failed to hold off Majka, was second, 29 seconds back. Nibali was third, 46 seconds behind.

Gronkowski cleared for Patriots' camp

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Rob Gronkowski has been cleared to play at the New England Patriots training camp.

Coach Bill Belichick says the star tight end has been cleared after offseason knee surgery. The Patriots hold their first public practice of camp on Thursday.

Gronkowski missed the last three regular-season games and both playoff games after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee when he was hit by Cleveland Browns safety T.J. Ward. Gronkowski underwent surgery in January.

He also missed the first six games while recovering from forearm and back operations. He played just seven games last season and finished with 39 catches and four touchdowns.

MLB



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter is preparing for life after baseball with the launch of Jeter Publishing, a partnership with Simon & Schuster, and becoming a brand development officer of Luvo, a food company encouraging healthy nutrition that also struck an agreement with the Yankees.

Jeter turns small part of attention to business

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedestrians craned their necks as Derek Jeter stood in front of a food truck parked across the street from Central Park.

As the New York Yankees captain winds down his baseball-playing life, part of his attention already is turning to his future business career.

He announced the launch of Jeter Publishing, a partnership with Simon & Schuster, last November, and became a partner and brand development officer of Luvo, a food company encouraging healthy nutrition that also struck an agreement with the Yankees. The 40-year-old posed for pictures with the company's first food truck on Monday.

"You've got to get involved with things that mean something to you, like this here does," Jeter said. "I don't think you just attach your name to anything that's out there. It has to mean something."

As he's climbed the lists of Yankees career leaders, alongside Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle, Jeter has struck deals with national brands such as Gatorade, Movado, Nike's Brand Jordan, Rawlings and the memorabilia dealer Steiner Sports.

"My No. 1 priority is to play right now. I'll have plenty of time to think about that when I'm finished," he said. "It's not immediate. I've been doing this for a long time, so when I'm finished, I want to take some time, where I don't have any schedule, and I can just sit around and enjoy myself. But, yeah, business ventures are important to me."

He's not sure how much time he will spend in New York — he'll be in the area sometimes because his parents live in New Jersey and his sister and nephew are in the area. But he's already downsized his Big Apple holdings.

A trust controlled by Jeter sold his 5,425-square-foot apartment on the 70th floor of Trump World Tower in Manhattan in October 2012 for \$15.5 million. His primary residence is set to be the 30,875-square foot house he had constructed on Davis Islands in Tampa, Fla., in 2010-11 that some have nicknamed "St. Jetersburg."

While he doesn't want to coach or manage, he's repeatedly said he would be interested in becoming a team owner, which would follow the path taken by retired NBA stars Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson and by hockey great Wayne Gretzky — though Gretzky has coached, too.

Yankees bolster lineup with deal for Padres' 3B Headley

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Trying to boost one of the weakest lineups in the American League, the New York Yankees acquired third baseman Chase Headley from the San Diego Padres on Tuesday for rookie infielder Yangelervis Solarte and minor league pitcher Rafael De Paula.

Headley arrived at Yankee Stadium right around game time Tuesday night and was in uniform in the dugout shaking hands with his new teammates by the top of the second inning. He came off the bench in the eighth and delivered a game-winning single in the 14th to give New York a 2-1 victory over the Texas Rangers.

"Sometimes these things happen," Headley said. "I had a chance earlier to get it done. There's a lot of nerves, but then I thought, why wouldn't this day go this way?"

Now that his whirlwind first day in pinstripes is over, Headley will become the everyday starter at a spot that's been a question mark for the Yankees all year following the season-long suspension of Alex Rodriguez.

"I don't think we're getting a big thumper," general manager Brian Cashman said. "But I do think we're getting an upgrade and a professional at-bat."

The 30-year-old Headley, drafted by the Padres in 2005, can become a free agent after this season. The switch-hitter was batting .229 with seven homers and 32 RBIs but has a .339 average with six extra-base hits in 13 games since July 4. He was a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger winner two years ago, when he had a huge second half and hit .286 with 31 homers and an NL-leading 115 RBIs.

He moves from a cavernous ballpark in San Diego to a homer haven in the Bronx and the Yankees think that can help him.

"You look at his last month, it's been really productive. He's swinging the bat pretty well," manager Joe Girardi said. "We feel that he's in a pretty good place."



AP

New York Yankees' Chase Headley talks to his new teammates during the second inning of Tuesday's game in New York. The Yankees acquired the third baseman from San Diego on Tuesday.

Cashman said he thinks an epidural injection that Headley had toward the end of June has a lot to do with his recent improvement — and Headley agreed. He had been playing through a herniated disk in his back.

"Once he had the epidural, it seems like it's had a huge impact," Cashman said. "He's a rental for the next two months."

As part of the deal, the Padres will pay \$1 million of the \$3,968,443 remaining on Headley's \$10,525,000 salary this year. Unable to reach a long-term contract, Headley has long been mentioned in trade talks.

"It's nice that it's over. It's nice that I know where I'm going to be," he said. "There were no hard feelings in San Diego. I loved every second I was in San Diego. By the same token, I think it was time to go. ... Hopefully I can get back to being the kind of player I have been."

With an injury-ravaged pitching staff missing four starters, the Yankees began the day 50-48 and four games behind first-place Baltimore in the AL East. They added Brandon McCarthy to the rotation this month, obtaining him in a trade with Arizona.

But it's the offense that's been a major problem — New York

ranked 13th out of 15 AL teams in runs with 391.

"We just keep trying to find different ways to upgrade," Cashman said. "We're open to anything."

The punchless Padres (43-55) are selling off pieces and trying to build for the future even as they look for a new general manager after Josh Byrnes was fired June 22. In the interim, senior vice president for baseball operations Omar Minaya and assistant general managers A.J. Hinch and Fred Uhlman Jr. are handling GM duties.

San Diego also traded All-Star closer Huston Street to the Angels on Friday in a six-player deal that netted four minor league prospects.

The 27-year-old Solarte was an extremely pleasant surprise early in the season as Rodriguez's replacement. The switch-hitter was batting .336 as of May 14 but has hit .180 since and was sent to Triple-A for a week this month.

"He really saved our bacon early this year. When we had a lot of other issues going on, he stepped up and for that we're thankful," Cashman said. "But he was a player that had to be in this situation for me to get Chase Headley back."

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MLB



CHRIS SCHNEIDER/AP

Washington Nationals first baseman Adam LaRoche hits a three-run home run in the seventh inning to give the Nats a 7-4 win over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday in Denver.

NL roundup

Nationals defeat Rockies to increase lead in East

The Associated Press

DENVER — Adam LaRoche has been scuffling this month. He hopes one swing will turn things around.

LaRoche broke out of a July slump with a tiebreaking home run in the seventh, Anthony Rendon had three hits and the Washington Nationals rallied to beat the Colorado Rockies 7-4 on Tuesday.

It was the Nationals fourth straight win and increased their NL East Division lead to two games over Atlanta, which lost to Miami on Tuesday.

The win might have come at a cost after third baseman Ryan Zimmerman left the game in the sixth inning with a strained right hamstring. He was scheduled to have an MRI done Wednesday.

"It's pretty sore tonight. Get the MRI, get some results tomorrow and see where we're at," manager Matt Williams said. "It's concerning. Anytime you have to leave the game with a hamstring injury it's concerning."

Zimmerman missed 44 games with a fractured right thumb earlier this season but has played well since coming off the disabled list on June 3.

"He's swinging great, playing great, but we have to deal with it," Williams said. "We'll see how he feels tomorrow and what the doctors say."

Ian Desmond followed Monday's 5-for-5 performance with hits in his first two at-bats Tuesday for Washington. He was hit by a pitch in the sixth to reach base

safely in eight consecutive plate appearances. The streak ended when he struck out in the seventh, but the Nationals had taken control on LaRoche's three-run homer off reliever Rex Brothers.

It was LaRoche's first home run off a lefthander since May 28, 2013.

"You swing hard enough enough times you're bound to run into something. I've been playing long enough to know a lot of times it takes one swing," LaRoche said. "I've been in a rut for a little while, my timing's been out of whack, so this came at a good time."

Nolan Arenado and Corey Dickerson homered for the Rockies, who have lost seven straight and remain tied with Texas for the worst record in the majors.

Before the game the Rockies placed shortstop Troy Tulowitzki on the 15-day disabled list with a left hip flexor strain and recalled left-hander Yohan Flande.

Tulowitzki is the third Colorado player in two days to hit the disabled list. First baseman Justin Morneau (neck) and reliever Boone Loggins (diverticulitis) were put on the DL on Monday, adding to the long list of Rockies out of action.

"It's unfortunate, it's what I'm dealt with, I've been dealt many, many things in my career," Tulowitzki said. "This is just a bump in the road."

Flande started well before faltering in the sixth. He allowed four runs on five hits and walked two in 5½ innings. He left with a 4-2 lead and runners on the

corners, but Colorado's bullpen couldn't hold it.

Marlins 6, Braves 5: Jacob Turner allowed two runs in his bid for a permanent return to Miami's rotation and the Marlins knocked Mike Minor out of the game early in their win over host Atlanta.

Pirates 12, Dodgers 7: Gregory Polanco got out of a slump with a solo home run and a tiebreaking two-run single, lifting Pittsburgh over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Cubs 6, Padres 0: Anthony Rizzo hit two home runs and Kyle Hendricks pitched seven innings in his return from the minor leagues as host Chicago beat San Diego to snap a five-game skid.

Brewers 4, Reds 3: Jonathan Lucroy's second home run of the game to lead off the bottom of the ninth inning gave host Milwaukee a walkoff win over Cincinnati.

Giants 9, Phillies 6 (14): Brandon Crawford hit a bases-clearing double to break a 14th-inning stalemate and Tim Lincecum earned his first career save as San Francisco beat host Philadelphia.

Interleague

Rays 7, Cardinals 2: Jake Odorizzi allowed two runs over 5½ innings, and Yunel Escobar highlighted a five-run fifth inning with a two-run double to lead Tampa Bay over host St. Louis.

Diamondbacks 5, Tigers 4: Aaron Hill drove in three runs and made a game-ending diving stop and Miguel Montero hit a two-run single in the eighth inning as host Arizona rallied.

AL roundup

Schoop's 2-run HR lifts O's by Angels

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — For the second straight night, the Baltimore Orioles got a strong performance from a starting pitcher who spent the All-Star break in the minor leagues and stayed on his regular routine. It worked for Miguel Gonzalez, just like it did for Bud Norris.

Gonzalez took a two-hit shutout into the eighth inning, Jonathan Schoop homered and J.J. Hardy hit two RBI doubles to lead the Orioles to a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday.

Gonzalez (5-5) was recalled from Triple-A Norfolk, where he was optioned on July 11 so that he wouldn't get stale after consecutive eight-inning no-decisions. Norris, who was optioned to Double-A Bowie on July 10, beat the Angels 4-2 Monday in his return to the rotation.

"We're fortunate they both had (minor league) options," manager Buck Showalter said. "I think Bud was a day away from not being able to get optioned because of his service time, so it was a good catch by our front office."

"It worked out well for both of them because they also got to spend some time in their hometowns out here. You just don't want to see guys lie around too long during the break and be inactive, but we have a lot of starters with options. So that's why we were able to do it."

Gonzalez (5-5) allowed two runs and three hits in 7½ innings, including a two-run homer in the eighth by All-Star Game MVP Mike Trout after a walk to No. 9 hitter Hank Conger. The Angels' other hits against Gonzalez were singles by Efrén Navarro in the third and fifth innings.

"I think it was beneficial for me, to go down there and keep doing what I was doing, and not getting that extra rest — especially after the last two outings I had," Gonzalez said. "I'm pretty happy about everything in general tonight. I gave us a chance to win a ballgame."

Tommy Hunter, making his 200th career appearance, retired Albert Pujols on a grounder for

the final out of the eighth and Zach Britton pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 21 chances.

"So far, Zach's done a good job," Showalter said. "But who knows? We might need Tommy to go back there again. I don't know if anybody's smart enough to know exactly how things are going to turn out. But so far, so good."

Angels left-hander Hector Santiago matched zeroes with Gonzalez through five innings, allowing just two hits before rookie Mike Morin took over in the sixth.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 3: J.A. Happ pitched six shutout innings for his first win in three starts and Dioner Navarro and Jose Reyes homered as host Toronto beat Boston. David Ortiz hit a solo homer in the eighth, his third homer in two games and the 36th at Rogers Centre, matching Alex Rodriguez for the most by a visiting player.

Indians 8, Twins 2: Carlos Santana homered among his season high-tying four hits and Danny Salazar won in his first start in more than two months as visiting Cleveland topped Minnesota.

Royals 7, White Sox 1: Mike Moustakas homered twice, Bruce Chen pitched five effective innings, and Kansas City snapped a four-game losing streak by beating host Chicago. Moustakas, who has 12 homers this season, went 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

Yankees 2, Rangers 1 (14): Chase Headley hit a game-winning single in the 14th inning of his Yankees debut to give host New York a victory over Texas.

Derek Jeter broke Lou Gehrig's franchise record for doubles, and the Yankees won an unlikely pitching duel after both rookie starters entered with a 5.10 ERA.

Astros 3, Athletics 2 (12): L.H. Hoes homered with one out in the top of the 12th as Houston beat Oakland for its first win at the Coliseum this year.

Interleague

Mets 3, Mariners 1: Jacob deGrom allowed five hits and a run in seven impressive innings and Lucas Duda hit a mammoth home run as visiting New York ended a three-game losing streak.



AP

Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis, right, scores on a double by J.J. Hardy as Los Angeles Angels catcher Hank Conger fields the throw during the sixth inning on Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Louisville head coach Bobby Petrino answers a question during a news conference at the Atlantic Coast Conference Football kickoff in Greensboro, N.C., on Monday.

ACC enters era of stability

With reigning champ FSU, league secures place among elite

The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Welcome to the new Atlantic Coast Conference.

It's where a founding member is out, a fast-rising program is in, Notre Dame is there, too — sort of — and nobody else is leaving.

Where a one-time punchline of a conference now boasts the Heisman Trophy winner, the reigning national champion and a handful of other individual award winners.

And where stability finally has arrived — with its status as a power conference secure entering the College Football Playoff era — leaving its members optimistic about its future.

"I think everybody is where they want to be," Commissioner John Swofford said. "That's real important."

So, here comes ambitious Louisville into its fourth conference since 2004. There goes Maryland, off to the Big Ten.

And Notre Dame is at least dipping its toe into the league, starting a scheduling arrangement this year in which it will play a handful of ACC teams every season while keeping its prized football independence.

Notre Dame will play host to North Carolina and Louisville, travel to Florida State and take on Syracuse at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The Fighting Irish joined in all sports except football and hockey last year, with Pittsburgh and Syracuse also coming on.

In the board room, Swofford said the new schools have "meshed so comfortably with our league, and that's a real credit to the individuals around the table. It feels like we've been together a lot longer than we have, and that's really a good thing."



Preseason predictions

The predicted order of finish in the Atlantic Coast Conference following a vote of 112 media members at the ACC media days event in Greensboro, N.C. (first-place votes in parenthesis):

Atlantic Division		
No.	School	Points
1.	Florida State (109)	780
2.	Clemson (3)	660
3.	Louisville	564
4.	Syracuse	368
5.	North Carolina State	326
6.	Boston College	301
7.	Wake Forest	136
Coastal Division		
1.	Miami (26)	614
2.	Duke (33)	597
3.	Virginia Tech (23)	571
4.	North Carolina (27)	570
5.	Georgia Tech (1)	322
6.	Pittsburgh (2)	319
7.	Virginia	142

SOURCE: The Associated Press

These 15 schools are bonded at least through 2026-27 by a grant-of-rights agreement that was announced last year and pumped the brakes on realignment.

So, what appears to be the final reshuffling — for a while, at least — shifts the ACC's footprint into the Midwest, moving into Kentucky and Indiana.

"I think the benefit comes from the quality of schools and athletic programs," Swofford said. "The quality is really what's brought to the table and along with it, from a pure marketplace standpoint, our footprint now has the largest pop-

ulation and the most television sets of any conference's footprint in the country. And that's only going to grow in the future if you look at projected population disbursement. That's all part of the positioning of the conference for the long term."

So, the incessant realignment chatter was replaced this year by discussion of a possible ACC-only television channel similar to the ones the Big Ten debuted in 2007 and the Southeastern Conference is launching later this summer.

Swofford had few details to offer about the possibility, saying the ACC "will continue to have our discussions with our partners at ESPN" about the potentially lucrative channel "and I remain pleased with how productive and insightful those discussions have been to this point."

On the field, it helps that the ACC doesn't have to deal with any more cheap shots about its struggles in games of national significance.

A league that combined for two wins in BCS games from the 1998 to 2011 seasons more than doubled its total in the past two years by winning three of them.

Florida State has done its part, winning two of those BCS games. The Seminoles produced last year's Heisman winner in quarterback Jameis Winston while capping their perfect season with a come-from-behind win over Auburn in the final BCS title game.

League coaches overwhelmingly called that title a good thing for the ACC because it could help the other 13 programs rise to Florida State's level.

"In a sense, the ACC is new in that we're stronger," Duke offensive lineman Laken Tomlinson said. "We want to be a football powerhouse, the ACC."

Sun Belt commish has faith in 'Power 5'

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Sun Belt Conference's 11 institutions are prepared to pay more to remain part of major college football, commissioner Karl Benson said Tuesday.

In his state-of-the-conference address during the league's annual media day, Benson also expressed optimism that the five wealthiest conferences — often called the "power five" — would not insist on new rules which would unduly marginalize the other five NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision conferences.

"We've shown that the competitive gap is not as great as the economic gap," Benson said. "We want to make sure that gap isn't widened."

In the past year, the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC have joined forces to push the NCAA for changes in rules that would

increase financial benefits for student athletes to account for the "full cost of attendance" beyond just tuition.

Benson said the Sun Belt supports such measures — to a point.

"Will there be greater additional costs? More than likely," Benson said. "And yes, there will be challenges, but Sun Belt universities have invested too much not to be part of major college football in the future."

Benson said all 10 FBS conferences "can and will co-exist."

He said the Sun Belt would oppose increasing the number of scholarships per team, but added that he's been told that is not currently part of the power five's plans. If the power five succeeds in liberalizing rules regarding athlete transfers, Benson said he hoped it wouldn't be done in a way which would allow top players to be poached from the other five conferences.

Sun Belt coaches also expressed hope that the power five conferences would stop short of pushing for proposals that many other schools may not be able to afford.

"We need them to lead the way. There's no doubt about that," said Texas State coach Dennis Franchione, whose previous head coaching stops included the SEC with Alabama and Big 12 with Texas A&M. "We need them to share in leading the way a little bit, too, though. ... Somewhere along the line, they need to consider what is also for the good of college football."

At the very least, 2014 appears to hold promise for the Sun Belt,

'Sun Belt universities have invested too much not to be part of major college football in the future.'

Karl Benson
Sun Belt Conference
Commissioner

which consists of Appalachian State, Arkansas State, Georgia State, Georgia Southern, Idaho, Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe, New Mexico State, South Alabama, Texas State and Troy.

For the first time, representatives from the Cotton Bowl, Peach Bowl and Fiesta Bowl attended Sun Belt media day, know-

ing that the winner of the league could potentially end up in their games this season.

The new College Football Playoff guarantees a spot in one of six New Year's Day bowl games to the highest-ranked league champion among the Sun Belt Conference, Conference USA, American Athletic Conference, Mountain West and Mid-American Conference.

The league also has more affiliations with smaller bowls, including the new Magnolia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

Last season, Sun Belt was among the stronger mid-majors, going 8-1 against Conference USA, the Mountain West and MAC. Louisiana-Monroe even beat Wake Forest of the ACC.

Franchione predicted the Sun Belt champ would be "right in the thick" of the race for a New Year's Day bowl bid. The preseason favorite is Louisiana-Lafayette, which has won the past three New Orleans Bowls under coach Mark Hudspeth, and which will be led this season by quarterback Terrance Broadway, the league's preseason player of the year.



Sun Belt Commissioner Karl Benson talks during the Sun Belt media day in New Orleans on Tuesday.

AP

NFL



HUY MACH, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Rams defensive end Michael Sam, left, and offensive lineman Greg Robinson go head-to-head Tuesday during the first day of training camp for rookies at Rams Park in Earth City, Mo. Sam is the first openly gay player to be drafted by an NFL team.

Sam excited to get started

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Now it starts to get intense for Michael Sam and the rest of the St. Louis Rams rookies.

The first openly gay player drafted in the NFL is enthusiastic about the challenge. Twice on Tuesday, he mentioned how enjoyable it was being back on the field and trading wisecracks with teammates.

"I'm so excited to be back with the guys," Sam said. "Football's fun."

Sam hopes there will be less attention about his sexual orientation, but added his focus has to be on making the team. He said he's in the best shape of his life, dropping 13 pounds in the month since the last OTA workout, weighing in at 257 pounds.

"Feeling great," he said. "It's just where

I want to be speed-wise, so I can run fast and make plays. I want to be as fast as I can."

Sam declined to offer specifics about his 40-yard dash time, adding "I'm not worried about the combine."

He didn't have much to say about his experience at the ESPYS, where he received the Arthur Ashe Courage award. Sam got a hug from the Hall of Famer Jim Brown on his way to the stage, and teared up as his speech faltered at times.

"You know, it was a great award and I had a great time in LA," Sam said. "But that's over and I'm focusing on football now."

Just as they did after the draft and during OTAs, teammates didn't seem to care that Sam was gay. Offensive lineman Demetrius Rhaney, taken the pick after the Rams created a stir by selecting Sam, had

only compliments.

"He's a football player, he's not a bother," Rhaney said. "He's laid-back, funny, jokes a lot. Pretty good."

Quarterback Garrett Gilbert, drafted in the sixth round out of Southern Methodist, said there was plenty on his plate without worrying about Sam. Gilbert said this will be the seventh offense he's had to learn in eight seasons counting high school and college.

"When Mike got drafted he became part of our team, and that's what he is," Gilbert said. "We're both here competing, our jobs aren't guaranteed."

"He as well as the other guys in our rookie class are members of this family."

Coach Jeff Fisher will address the media for the first time on Friday after the first full-squad workout.

Denver owner relinquishes control due to Alzheimer's

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen is giving up control of the team because of Alzheimer's disease.

The 70-year-old Bowlen will no longer be a part of the club's daily operations, the Broncos announced Wednesday. Team President Joe Ellis is adding the title of chief executive officer and will have final say on all matters.

The Broncos say the ownership of the franchise is held in a trust Bowlen set up more than a decade ago in hopes that one of his seven children will one day run the team.

"As many in the Denver community and around the National Football League have

speculated, my husband, Pat, has very bravely and quietly battled Alzheimer's disease for the last few years. He has elected to keep his condition private because he has strongly believed, and often said, 'It's not about me,'" Annabel Bowlen said in a statement Wednesday.

Business is expected to go on as usual at Broncos headquarters.

Bowlen had reduced his public appearances in recent years, although he was still a fixture at the team's Dove Valley complex and at all of its games. After acknowledging in 2009 that he suffered short-term memory loss, he stepped back from day-to-day operations in 2011 when he promoted Ellis to president.

Wreckage: Manning has different cast

FROM BACK PAGE

NFL season with nary a thought of retirement.

"Sometimes it's the monotonous routine, the boredom, that pushes guys out, not the physical part of it," Manning said. "And I have been stimulated the past two years working with Adam and working with different teammates, so it does sort of keep the bounce in you, I think."

Atop Elway's to-do list when he touched down back in Denver following that 43-8 loss to Seattle was an edgier defense. Yes, like the one that had just throttled the high-scoring team in NFL history.

Elway also sought a beefier offensive line to give Manning better protection and the Broncos' ground game more muscle.

He accomplished both goals in a stellar offseason that puts Denver in position to make another Super Bowl run.

Here are some things to keep in mind as the Broncos kick off training camp this week in hopes of getting back to the big game:

Reinforcements arrive: Elway signed pass-rusher DeMarcus Ware, cornerback Aqib Talib and safety T.J. Ward in another free agency mother lode that gave him thumpers at all three levels on defense.

That theme continued in the draft when Ohio State's bruising cornerback, Bradley Roby, ranked 14th on the Broncos' board, slid to No. 31.

Stars return: Denver defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio was all smiles this off-season as one by one his injured starters returned to practice. Miller and Harris Jr. are coming off ACL surgeries. Wolfe is back from a mysterious ailment that led to seizures and weight loss. Moore is back at full speed after nearly losing his lower left leg to a rare medical condition.

On top of that, coach John Fox, who had open-heart surgery in November, signed an extension.

Shuffled O-line: Standout left tackle Ryan Clady's return from a foot injury that cost him almost all of 2013 allows the Broncos to move Chris Clark to right tackle and slide Orlando Franklin inside to Zane Beavers' old spot at left guard.

With All-Pro Louis Vasquez at right guard and Manny Ramirez at center, Denver's interior boasts nearly 1,000 pounds. That should help provide a more balanced offense while keeping Manning from the kind of harassment that plagued him at the Super Bowl.

Ball's backups: The Broncos are so comfortable with second-year pro Montee Ball that they let Moreno leave after a season in which he gained 1,586 yards from scrimmage and another 195 in the playoffs.

The competition for carries behind Ball is one of the most intriguing battles. C.J. Anderson and Ronnie Hillman will be pushed by undrafted free agents Brennan Clay, Kapri Bibbs and Juwan Thompson.

New returner: Elway also didn't bother to bring back kick returner Trindon Holliday, who faded down the stretch and was a nonfactor in the playoffs.

Primed to take his spot is Isaiah Burse, a speedy slot receiver from Fresno State who patterned his game after Wes Welker's — and even followed his idol's path to the NFL when he went undrafted. Burse aims to end Denver's streak to 11 seasons with an undrafted free agent making the 53-man roster.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Denver owner Pat Bowlen, 70, will no longer be a part of the team's daily operations as he battles Alzheimer's.

NFL PREVIEW CAPSULES

AFC EAST

New England Patriots (13-5)

Open camp: July 23, Foxborough, Mass.

Last year: Despite injuries to key players, mediocre receiving corps and weak run defense, Patriots reached third straight AFC championship game. Lost to Broncos 26-16, allowing 507 yards, most in Bill Belichick's 14 seasons as coach. Injuries sidelining TE Rob Gronkowski, LB Jerod Mayo and Danny Amendola and Tommy Kelly were costly. WR Danny Amendola was disappointment in his first year with team. But WR Julian Edelman, with 69 catches in previous four seasons, had 105.

Important additions: CBs Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner; DL Dominique Esasley; WR Brandon Laell; DE Will Smith; LB James Anderson.

Important losses: CB Aqib Talib; RB LeGarrette Blount; LBs Brandon Spikes and Dene Fletcher; S Steve Gregory.

Camp needs: Better pass rush, influx of youth on aging offensive line, productive backup for Gronkowski, whose readiness is uncertain after knee injury. Also must improve young receiving group. WRs Aaron Dobson, Kenbrell Thompsons and Josh Boyce should benefit from last season's rookie experience. Patriots also must decide if second-round draft pick Jimmy Garoppolo is good enough for them to keep two quarterbacks and release or trade Ryan Mallett.

Expectations: Sixth straight AFC East title is likely, as well as Belichick and Tom Brady are running show, expectations are high in weak division. Defense improved with additions of Revis and Browner, which offset loss of Talib to Denver. Departure of Spikes, who clashed with Belichick, could hurt. But Anderson, solid locker room presence who led Bears in tackles last season, provides pass coverage ability Spikes lacked. Patriots still have RBs Steven Ridley, Shane Vereen and Brandon Bolden.

Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill

AP



New York Jets (8-8)

Open camp: July 23, Cortland, N.Y.

Last year: Rookie QB Geno Smith was forced into starting job when Mark Sanchez was lost for season and had roller-coaster year that ended on upswing. Jets winning three of last four to finish .500 and save coach Rex Ryan's job. Still, Jets missed playoffs for third straight year, longest postseason drought since Woody Johnson bought team in 2000.

Important additions: WR Eric Decker; RB Chris Johnson; QB Michael Vick; RT Breno Giacomini; CBs Dimitri Patterson and Dexter McDougle; S Calvin Pryor; TE Jace Amaro; special teams coordinator Thomas McGaughey.

Important losses: Sanchez; CB Antonio Cromartie; WRs Santonio Holmes and Josh Cribbs; RT Austin Howard; TE Kellen Winslow Jr.; S Ed Reed; ST coordinator Ben Kotwica.

Camp needs: For Smith to show marked improvement and establish himself as QB of present, and possibly future. If he struggles, Vick will be expected to step in. Jets also will have to sort through mix of veterans and youngsters at WR and in secondary.

Expectations: Ryan encouraged by upgrades on offense with Decker, Johnson and Amaro, who should help move ball more consistently, whether it's Smith or Vick under center. Defense should be solid, as usual, as long as Pryor, McDougle and second-year CB Dee Milliner play well.

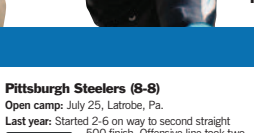
Ravens WR Steve Smith

MCT



Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski

MCT



AFC NORTH

Cincinnati Bengals (11-5)

Open camp: July 24, Cincinnati.

Last year: Won AFC North and made playoffs for third year in row, only to lose opening game once again. Haven't won playoff game since 1990 season, streak of futility tied for sixth longest in NFL history. Coach Marvin Lewis got one-year extension through 2015. Andy Dalton had best regular season, becoming only fifth starting QB during Super Bowl era to reach playoffs of first three seasons.

Important additions: Hue Jackson promoted to offensive coordinator, Paul Guenther promoted to defensive coordinator, S Daniel Manning; OT Marshall Newhouse; CB Darqueze Dennard; RB Jeremy Hill.

Important losses: Defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer, offensive coordinator Jay Gruden; DE Michael Johnson; OT Anthony Collins; C Kyle Cook.

Camp needs: Focus will be on several injured players' recoveries. DT Geno Atkins rose ACL on Oct. 31 and couldn't participate in June minicamp. CB Leon Hall is ahead of schedule (don Achilles tendon). Punter Kevin Huber returns from broken jaw and cracked neck vertebra. LB, second-round pick from LSU, will challenge BenJarvus Green-Ellis for starting job. C Russell Bodine, fourth-year pick, will get chance to take over for Kyle Cook. Jackson is installing more up-tempo approach.

Expectations: No mystery here: Bengals have to not only reach playoffs but win at least one game to consider season a success. With two new coordinators, lots of attention on whether either unit drops off. Zimmer known for making game adjustments; can Guenther do same? Also pivotal year for Dalton, who fell apart in playoff losses.

Pittsburgh Steelers (8-8)

Open camp: July 25, Latrobe, Pa.

Last year: Started 2-6 on way to second straight .500 finish. Offensive line took two months to recover from loss of center Maurkice Pouncey (knee) in opener. Defense spent eight games getting pushed around, finishing outside 10 in yards allowed for first time in more than a decade. RB Le'Veon Bell proved durable after some early injuries. Antonio Brown developed elite wide receiver, catching 110 passes.

Important additions: WRs Lance Moore and Martavis Bryant; DT Cam Thomas; RB LeGarrette Blount; S Mike Mitchell; LB Ryan Shazier; DE Stephon Tulloch; RB/WR Dr. Archer; OL coach Mike Munchak.

Important losses: WRs Emmanuel Sanders and Jericho Catcher; RB Jonathan Dwyer; LB Larry Foote; S Ryan Clark; running backs coach Kirby Wilson.

Camp needs: Youth movement almost over, it's time to find out if kids can play. Biggest battles figure to be at receiver — 6-foot-4 rookie Bryant will battle second-year wideout Markus Wheaton for No. 2 spot. Questions remain on defensive line. Thomas will try to unseat Steve McLendon. Pittsburgh beat back on OLB Jason Woods, signing him to transitional tag while cutting LaMarr Woodard. Worlds (hamstring) missed almost all offseason activities and minicamp.

Expectations: Steelers haven't missed playoffs three straight years since 1998-2000. They're retooled around QB Ben Roethlisberger, who believes offense will be as explosive as any in his 10 NFL years. Pittsburgh flourished after coordinator Todd Haley gave Roethlisberger more freedom in no-huddle. Expect those powers to be expanded during camp. Young defense adds Shazier, first-round pick expected to play right away alongside veteran LB Lawrence Timmons.

Miami Dolphins (8-8)

Open camp: July 25, Davie, Fla.

Last year: Dolphins were wildly inconsistent, their season rocked by bullying scandal that raised questions about locker room leadership. To make post-season for first time in five years, they needed to win one of final two games against Bills or Jets, both lost by combined 39-7. General manager Jeff Ireland left after six years. Coach Joe Philbin returns for third season, might need to make playoffs to keep job.

Important additions: GM Dennis Hickey, offensive coordinator Bill Lazor; OL coach John Benton; LT Brian Albert and RT Ja'Wuan James; DT Earl Mitchell; RB Knowshon Moreno; S Louis Delmas; WR Jarvis Landry; CB Cortland Finnegan; LB Shelby Smith; Jason Fox, Daryn Colledge and Billy Turner.

Important losses: Ireland; offensive coordinator Mike Sherman; OL coach Jim Turner; DT Jonathan Martin; DT Paul Solai; S Chris Clemens; CBs Nolan Carroll and Dimitri Patterson; TE Dustin Keller.

Camp needs: Offense must adjust to Lazor's system while finding fireproof after Dolphins scored once in final 24 possessions last year. Sort out O-line with five new starters after departures of Martin and Incognito, both involved in bullying scandal. Secondary will have two new starters. Should they keep Koa Misi at MLB after moving him there during offseason drills.

Expectations: Dolphins were outgained by 743 yards last year, suggesting they overachieved to 8-8. Neither offense nor defense appears to be first-place caliber, and unless QB Ryan Tannehill makes dramatic improvement in third NFL season, another Miami coaching search is more likely in January than a playoff game.

Buffalo Bills (6-10)

Open camp: July 20, Pittsford, N.Y.

Last year: Top to bottom offseason overhaul, addition of rookie quarterback (EJ Manuel) and series of injuries, Manuel, included, contributed to ninth straight losing record. Team extended NFL's longest active playoff drought to 14 seasons. Manuel's development was hampered by three separate knee injuries, missed six regular-season games. Buffalo finished 19th in yards gained and 29th in yards passing. Defense improved under coordinator Mike Pettine's attacking philosophy, but struggled against run.

Important additions: WRs Mike Williams and Sammy Watkins; LBs Brandon Spikes and Keith Rivers; DB Corey Graham; RB Bryce Brown; RT Cyrus Koussior; defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz and defensive line coach Pepper Johnson.

Important losses: Owner Ralph Wilson; S Jarius Byrd; WR Stevie Johnson; defensive coordinator Pettine; LB Kiko Alonso.

Camp needs: Manuel to stay healthy and show signs of taking command of offense. Find capable replacement for OLB with Alonso expected to miss season (tom ACL). Watkins, Williams and second-year WRs Robert Woods and Marquise Goodwin to establish chemistry with Manuel. De'Morris Seay or Duke Williams to secure safety spot left open following Byrd's departure. DT Marcell Dareus to stand up to trouble after facing drug possession and reckless endangerment driving charges.

Expectations: Bills are up for sale following Wilson's death. Could this be year they finally are playoff contenders? GM Doug Whaley emphasized win-now approach at draft by giving up 2015 first-round pick to move and select Watkins at No. 4. Much of defense rests in hands of Bills' strength on offense — its running game.

Browns QB Johnny Manziel

MCT



Cleveland Browns (4-12)

Open camp: July 26, Berea, Ohio.

Last year: Browns dropped 10 of 11 for sixth straight season as of at least 11 losses. Coach Rob Chudzinski was fired immediately, front office was dismissed in February. Cleveland started 3-2, but QB Brian Hoyer's season-ending knee injury sent team into spiral. Positives were six Pro Bowlers, and WR Josh Gordon led league in yards receiving.

Important additions: Coach Mike Pettine; offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan; QB Johnny Manziel; RBs Ben Tate and Terrance West; WRs Miles Austin, Nate Burleson and Andrew Hawkins; LB Carlos Dansby; S Dante Whitner and Justin Gilbert; OLB Paulquist and Joe Bitonio; TE Jim Dry.

Important losses: LBs D'Qwell Jackson and Quentin Groves; S T.J. Ward; WRs Greg Little and Davone Bess; QBs Brandon Weeden and Jason Campbell; G Shawn Lauva.

Camp needs: Hoyer will try to hold off Manziel, a first-round pick, for starting job. Hoyer left spring minicamp with lead, but Pettine warned his advantage wasn't "unsurmountable" for Johnny Football. Browns still awaiting clarity from league on Gordon, who could be facing one-year ban for substance abuse. Hard to imagine Cleveland's offense without him.

Expectations: Pettine has to prevent first camp from turning into crisis. Wildly popular Manziel will draw big crowds and constant questions about QB competition. If Gordon is suspended, Browns have to hope Austin can step in with Dallas before asserted leg injuries.

— The Associated Press

NFL PREVIEW CAPSULES



Colts QB
Andrew Luck

AP



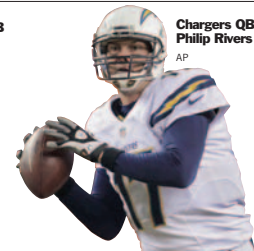
Raiders QB
Matt Schaub

AP



Texans LB
Jadeveon Clowney

AP



Chargers QB
Philip Rivers

AP

AFC SOUTH

Indianapolis Colts (12-6)

Open camp: July 25, Anderson, Ind.

Last year: Colts won first division title without Peyton Manning in nearly two decades, and Andrew Luck rallied them from 28-point deficit to pull off second-greatest playoff comeback in NFL history against Chiefs. But at New England, Luck threw four interceptions in 43-22 blowout that prevented Indy vs. Manning matchup for AFC championship.

Important additions: LB D'Oweli Jackson and Jonathan Newsome; DT Arthur Jones; OLS Lance Louis and Jack Mewhort; WRs Hakeem Nicks and Donte Moncrief.

Important losses: LB Pat Angerer; S Antoine Bethea; RB Donald Brown; DT Aubrayo Franklin; WR Darius Heyward-Bey; OL Samson Satele.

Camp needs: Find starting center, improve along offensive line, solidify pass defense, pass rush, and finding replacement for Bethea in secondary.

Expectations: In division that lacks standout quarterbacks and Super Bowl contenders, Luck and Colts stand apart. They made playoffs in 2012, won playoff game last year and appear poised to take next logical step. But to win NFL title, need WR Reggie Wayne to be healthy, Luck to be protected better, and improved defense that will be without NFL sacks champion Robert Mathis for first four games.

Tennessee Titans (7-9)

Open camp: July 25, Nashville, Tenn.

Last year: QB Jake Locker missed nine games, including first fifth, and Titans missed playoffs for fifth straight season. Owner/founder Bud Adams died in October, and son-in-law Tommy Smith became president/CEO. Smith fired Mike Munchak in January when coach wouldn't make some staff changes, ending Hall of Fame lineman's 31-year tenure with this franchise as player and coach.

Important additions: Coach Ken Whisenhunt; defensive coordinator Ray Horton; RB-WR Dexter McCluster; LBs Shaun Phillips and Wesley Woodyard; OTs Michael Oher and Taylor Lewan; RB Bishop Sankey.

Important losses: RB Chris Johnson; Pro Bowl CB Alterraun Verner; QB Ryan Fitzpatrick; RT David Stewart.

Camp needs: RB Shonn Greene needs to be healthy after two knee surgeries. Lewan can push both veteran LT Michael Oher or Oher for playing time. WR Justin Hunter must keep developing while keeping some of weight he added. Defensively, pick either Blidi Wreh-Wilson or Cory Sengstack as Verner's replacement, settle linebacker starters and rotation transitioning to 3-4 scheme.

Expectations: How good Tennessee can be depends on Locker's health. He appears recovered from season-ending Lisfranc injury in right foot, must avoid further injury so Whisenhunt can squeeze most out of new offense — Locker's third in his fourth season. Playoffs among goals, but the Titans must fine-tune new offense and defense in August with three of first four regular-season games on road.

Jacksonville Jaguars (4-12)

Open camp: July 25, Jacksonville, Fla.

Last year: Under general manager Dave Caldwell and head coach Gus Bradley, rebuilding Jaguars lost first eight games by double digits. They enjoyed slight turnaround, winning three of four at one point, but ended up with fifth losing record in last six years.

Important additions: QB Blake Bortles; G Zane Beadles; DEs Red Bryant and Chris Clemens; RB Toby Gerhart; DT Ziggy Hood; WRs Marqise Lee and Allen Robinson; LB Dekoda Watson.

Important losses: DE Jason Babin; RB Maurice Jones-Drew; C Brad Meester; G Uche Nwaneri.

Camp needs: Get WRs Cecil Shorts III, Lee and Robinson back following offseason injuries and keep them healthy. Develop continuity along revamped offensive line. Get newcomers Beadles, Bryant, Clemens, Gerhart and Watson more comfortable in starting roles. Keep grooming Bortles.

Expectations: Despite roster overhaul, Jaguars are probably still another year away from competing for playoffs. Bortles is eventual starter and key to franchise's future success, but might sit out all of 2014 while transitioning from spread offense to pro system.

Houston Texans (2-14)

Open camp: July 25, Houston.

Last year: Texans entered season with dreams on reaching Super Bowl after two straight playoff appearances. They won first two games, but soon quarterback Matt Schaub went through terrible stretch before being benched. Injuries piled up and Houston never won again, tying the worst record in franchise history.

Important additions: Coach Bill O'Brien; defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel; OLB Jadeveon Clowney; QBs Ryan Fitzpatrick and Tom Savage; S Chris Clemens; G Xavier Su'a-Filo.

Important losses: Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips; Schaub; RB Ben Tate; DE Antonio Smith; TE Owen Daniels; S Dorian Manning.

Camp needs: Clowney missed minicamp after sports hernia surgery and he'll need camp to work on transition from end to OLB. Team must resolve issues with disgruntled WR Andre Johnson, who skipped minicamp. Fitzpatrick, who O'Brien chose as starter in June, needs to settle into new offense. RB Arian Foster must show he can return to form following back surgery.

Expectations: Texans should be better, but aren't likely playoff contenders. Return of MLB Brian Cushing to play with Clowney and 2012 Defensive Player of Year J.J. Watt could give Houston dominant defense, but some question Fitzpatrick as answer to team's quarterback problem. If Texans don't get Johnson on field there will be big hole in offense. WR DeAndre Hopkins will have much more pressure to perform in second season.

AFC WEST

Denver Broncos (15-4)

Open camp: July 23, Englewood, Colo.

Last year: Peyton Manning had best season of his unparalleled career, leading offense that was best in NFL history before injury-depleted Broncos were blistered by Seattle in Super Bowl.

Important additions: DE-LB DeMarcus Ware; WR Emmanuel Sanders and Cody Latimer; S T.J. Ward; CBs Aqib Talib and Bradley Roby.

Important losses: CB Champ Bailey; WR Eric Decker; LB Wesley Woodyard; S Mike Adams; RB Knowshon Moreno.

Camp needs: Broncos need defensive stalwarts Von Miller (ACL), Chris Harris Jr. (ACL), Kevin Vickerson (hip) and Rahim Moore (leg) to return to form after watching Super Bowl from sideline. With LT Ryan Clady (foot) back and Zane Beadles gone, Broncos juggled O-line, moving Chris Clark to RT and shifting Orlando Franklin inside to LG. That gives them more muscle for ground game led by second-year Pro Bowl tailback Ball as they strive for better balance in 2014.

Expectations: As Chris Harris Jr., said, "It's Super Bowl or bust for us this year." He meant winning it. Broncos could be even better on offense with Sanders and Latimer replacing Decker, and Ball replacing Moreno. Defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio is relieved to get back so many injured players and injury in bivy of thumpers GM John Elway signed to add nastiness Broncos witnessed — and Manning felt — against Seahawks in Super Bowl.

Kansas City Chiefs (11-5)

Open camp: July 24, St. Joseph, Mo.

Last year: After going 2-14 two years ago, Chiefs overhauled roster and rebounded to win first nine games. They scuffled down the stretch but earned wild card after blowing 28-point lead in 45-44 loss at Indianapolis.

Important additions: OL Jeff Linkenbach; LBs Dee Ford and Joe Mays; DT Vance Walker; CBs Chris Owens and Phillip Adams; DE Anthony Thomas.

Important losses: OLS Brandon Albert, Jon Asamoah and Geoff Schwartz; WR Dexter McCullister; FS Kendrick Lewis; CB Brandon Flowers; LB Akiem Jordan; DE Tyson Jackson.

Camp needs: Chiefs need to settle on starting offensive line, particularly RG, where Rokevious Watkins has been suspended four games for violating league's substance abuse policy. Competition at WR figures to be stiff behind Dwayne Bowe, and jobs at FS and CB will be up for grabs. Watch for contract negotiations involving QB Alex Smith and LB Justin Houston; both can become free agents after season. Houston skipped all voluntary and mandatory offseason workouts.

Expectations: Chiefs lost three Pro Bowl players, three starting offensive linemen and several veterans who provided valuable depth. They made modest moves in free agency due to salary cap situation. Second-year coach Andy Reid believes everyone having a year in his system will help. But with more difficult schedule, many believe a .500 record will be successful.

San Diego Chargers (9-7)

Open camp: July 24, San Diego.

Last year: Under new coach Mike McCoy, Chargers recovered from midseason slump to win final four games to end three-year playoff drought. Bolts lost at Denver in divisional round after beating Bengals in wild-card game. QB Philip Rivers had big bounce-back season to win Comeback Player award. RB Ryan Mathews had career year.

Important additions: CBs Brandon Flowers, Jason Verrett and Brandon Ghee; RB Donald Brown.

Important losses: QB Charlie Whitehurst.

Camp needs: Improving pass defense, among worst in NFL in 2013. Biggest competition should be at cornerback, where free agents Flowers and Ghee will compete with Shareece Wright and top draft pick Verrett. Bolts also looking to sort out depth chart at OLB, where Dwight Freeney returns from injury-second-round season and Jerry Attaochu joins team as second-round draft pick. Chargers eager to see how rookie NT Ryan Gresham does. At RB, Brown and rookie Manton Grier join mix with Mathews and Danny Woodhead.

Expectations: Chargers should return to playoffs, although they'll again be chasing Peyton Manning and Denver in division. That's why they played up on defensive players in Draft. Plus, they loaded the tough NFC West.

Oakland Raiders (4-12)

Open camp: July 25, Napa, Calif.

Last year: Raiders posted second straight four-win season under coach Dennis Allen and GM Reggie McKenzie as team lacked playmakers and depth. Defense allowed second-most points per game (28.3) in franchise history. Offense was plagued by porous line and inconsistent play at quarterback from Terrelle Pryor, Matt McGloin and Matt Flynn. Added up to 11th straight season without winning record or playoff berth.

Important additions: QB Matt Schaub and Derek Carr; LB Khalil Mack; DEs Justin Tucker and LaMarr Woodley; DT Antonio Smith; WR James Jones; RB Maurice Jones-Drew; CB Tahir Brown and Carlos Rogers; OLS Donald Penn and Austin Howard.

Important losses: DT Jared Veldheer; DE Lamar Houston; QB Terrelle Pryor; RB Rashad Jennings; CB Tracy Porter and CB Mike Jenkins; DT Vance Walker. **Camp needs:** Raiders are hoping Schaub can solidify quarterback after being run out of Houston following rough 2013. If he struggles at all, second-round pick Carr could push for starting time. Offensive line needs to mesh with only C Stefen Wisniewski expected to return to spot he played last season. Defense must integrate at least six new starters led by No. 5 overall pick Mack.

Expectations: With McKenzie finally having money to spend, he made significant upgrades to weak roster. While many newcomers such as Tuck, Woodley and Jones come with Super Bowl pedigrees, most of them are also at least 29 years old, likely on downside of careers. Oakland also has difficult schedule — five games against last season's conference title participants, four more against playoff teams. But owner Mark Davis is getting impatient.

SPORTS



Breaking out of a slump
LaRoche homers to help Nationals stretch lead in NL East | **MLB, Page 26**

NFL

Sifting through the wreckage

Super Bowl blowout aside, Broncos still aiming high

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

SENGLEWOOD, Colo. Sacred cows were scarce when Broncos general manager John Elway dug out from the wreckage of that Super Bowl blistering by the Seahawks.

Cornerback Champ Bailey, a perennial Pro Bowler and potential Hall of Famer, was sent packing.

So were Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Mike Adams and Shaun Phillips, three other defensive starters who helped keep the Broncos

afloat during an injury epidemic that sidelined Von Miller, Rahim Moore, Kevin Vickerson, Derek Wolfe and Chris Harris Jr. at the Super Bowl.

Inside:

- Division-by-division look at AFC teams, Pages 30-31
- Denver owner giving up control of team, Page 29

Denver's record-breaking offense wasn't spared, either.

After throwing for more yards and touchdowns than anyone in NFL history, Peyton Manning had to say goodbye to wide receiver Eric Decker and running back Knowshon Moreno, who combined for 3,154 yards from scrimmage and 25 touchdowns in the lead-up to the Super Bowl.

Replacing Decker are coveted free agent Emmanuel Sanders and prized rookie Cody Latimer, both of whom have spent plenty of one-on-one time with Manning this offseason.

Those post-practice sessions not only helped get the new guys up to speed in Adam Gase's breakneck offense, but they kept Manning sharp entering his 17th

SEE WRECKAGE ON PAGE 29

By the numbers

340.3

Number of passing yards the Broncos averaged per game last season.

55

Number of touchdown passes the Broncos' high-octane offense scored last season.

20

Number of times the Broncos' quarterbacks were sacked last season.

SOURCE: espn.com

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning is entering his 17th season in the NFL.

DOUG KAPUSTIN/MCT

ACC welcomes Louisville into fold
College football, Page 28

Mavs' Felton pleads guilty in gun case
Sports briefs, Page 24

